DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 189 013 SO 012 711

TITLE	A Comprehensive View of Brazil.
INSTITUTION	Texas Education Agency, Austin.
PUB DATE	80
NOTE	76p.
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Area Studies: Economics: Foreign Countries: Geography: Latin American Culture: Latin American History: Maps: Politics: Resource Materials: Secondary Education: Social Change: *Social Studies
IDENTIFIERS	*Brazil

ABSTRACT

This student and teacher resource discusses the geography, history, and contemporary changes and achievements of Brazil. It is intended to complement textbooks and other teaching materials by serving as a resource for teachers, administrators, and students. The document is presented in three parts. Part I focuses on the geography of Brazil, covering political divisions, topographical features, major climate zones, demographic characteristics, and a discussion of the regional organization of the country. Part II examines the history of Brazil, with sections presenting Brazil as a Portuguese colony (1500-1815), as a United Kingdom with Portugal and Algarves (1815-1822), as an empire (1822-1889), and as a republic (1889 to the present). Part III emphasizes Brazil as a rapidly developing nation, discussing recent economic changes, political and administrative organization, social achievements, art, education, literature, mass media, religion, and sports. Appendices list holidays and festivals, Brazilian consulates and embassies as sources of information, selected fiction and nonfiction about the country, and audiovisual aids. Numerous maps and charts enhance the text. (CK)

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FOREWORD

Until recent years, Brazil's image was associated with the exotic Amazon forest, Rio's carnival, soccer, and coffee exportation. However, these simplified generalizations lend themselves to misunderstandings about Brazil, its people, and their culture. This publication is designed to give up-to-date information on modern Brazil. It was written by Albenides Ramos of Rio de Janeiro who, during the 1978-79 school year, served as a foreign curriculum consultant for the Texas Education Agency under Public Law 87-256, the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

One of Mr. Ramos' duties while at the Texas Education Agency was to develop A Comprehensive View of Brazil. The publication is intended to complement textbooks and other teaching materials and to serve as a resource for teachers, administrators, and students dealing with subjects relative to Latin America, especially studies in world history and in world geography. It also includes a suggested list of additional readings on Brazil, maps, charts, and suggestions on instructional materials for the classroom.

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CONTENTS

		Page
UNIT I	BRAZIL: GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND	1
	A Tropical and Atlantic Country	3
	Demographic Characteristics	9
	Regional Organization of the Country	12
	The *Amazônia* or North Region	13
	The Northeast as a Problem Region	15
	The Southeast: The Core Region	17
	The Individuality of the Southern Region	19
	The Central West: A Pioneer Region	20
UNIT II	BRAZIL: HISTORICAL ROOTS	25
	Brazil as a Portuguese Colony (1500-1815)	27
	Discovery and Colonization	27
	Colonial Society	29
	Territorial Expansion	31
	Colonial Economy	33
	Movements for Independence	34
	Brazil as a United Kingdom with Portugal and Algarves (1815-1822)	36
	Brazil as an Empire (1822-1889)	37
	Brazil as a Republic (1889-to the Present)	40
	Brazilian History Highlights	43
UNIT III	BRAZIL: A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING NATION	45
	Recent Economic Changes	47
	Political and Administrative Organization	50
	Social Achievements	51
	A Confluence of Cultures	53
	Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting	53
	Education	54
	Literature	56
	Mass Media	57
	Music	58
	Religion	59
	Sports	60

Page

APPENDIX

Holidays and Festivals Considered International or National Events 65
Sources of Information on Brazil 68
Selected Books on Brazil 69
Suggested Audiovisual Aids 72

BIBLIOGRAPHY 74

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	Title	Page
1	Brazil in the World	3
2	Brazil: Political Divisions	4
3	Brazilian Topography	5
4	Major Climate Zones	6
5	Main River Systems	8
6	Population Increase	9
7	Rural-Urban Population Shift	10
8	Brazilian Melting Pot	11
9	Regions of Brazil	12
10	Amazônia: States, Territories, and Capitals	13
11	Highway System in Amazônia	14
12	Northeast: States and Capitals	15
13	Southeast: States and Capitals	17
14	South: States and Capitals	19
15	Central-West: States and Capitals	20
16	Plan of Brasília	22
17	Cabral's Route to Brazil and India	28
18	Original Areas of Black Slaves of Brazil and Ports of Reception	30
19	Territorial Expansion	32
20	Gross National Product Growth	49

UNIT I

BRAZIL: GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

A TROPICAL AND ATLANTIC COUNTRY

Brazil covers almost half of the South American continent, and its area of 8,511,965 square kilometers (3,286,487 square miles) is totally habitable. This immense territory ranks Brazil as the fifth largest country in the world after the Soviet Union, Canada, China, and the United States. However, if compared with the contiguous territory of the United States, Brazil is larger and has space for another Texas.

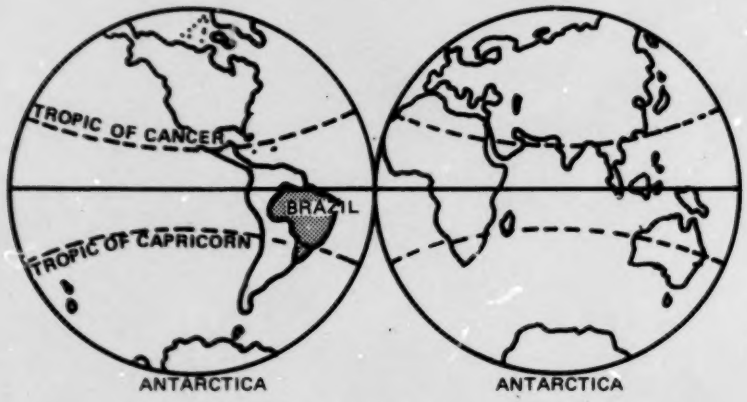


Fig. 1 – BRAZIL IN THE WORLD

The predominant part of Brazil's territory is located in the tropical zone, between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. All the countries of the South American continent have common frontiers with Brazil except Ecuador and Chile. The coastline is washed by the Atlantic Ocean for a length of 7,408 kilometers (4,600 miles). The north-south linear length is 4,320 kilometers (2,685 miles), and the east-west length is 4,328 kilometers (2,629 miles), giving the country four time zones, all of them west of the Prime Meridian.

Politically, the Federal Republic of Brazil is divided into 22 states, four territories, and a Federal District. Each state has its own government and is divided into county-like *municípios* each of which has a county seat called a *cidade* (city). Each *município* is further divided into districts whose headquarters are called a *vila* (village).

Fig. 2 – BRAZIL: POLITICAL DIVISIONS

Because of its enormous territory and geographical position, Brazil has a large variety of topography, different climate zones, a richness of vegetation, and immense river systems. These distinct ecological conditions have strong influences on the population distribution.

With respect to topography, Brazil is a country of plateaus interconnected by lowlands. No mountains in the territory can be compared with the neighboring Andean range. Brazil's terrains are among the oldest geological structures on earth and may be organized into four major divisions:

- The Guyanas Highlands, located in the extreme northern part of Brazil, form the natural boundaries with Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, and French Guyana. In this plateau rises the highest point in Brazil, the Neblina Peak, 3,014 meters high (9,889 feet).

- The Amazon Plain, which occupies the vast lowland drained by the Amazon River, is shaped like a leaf widening toward the source of the river. The plain was formed when the creation of the Andes blocked the western mouth of the Amazon River and created a great inland lake.

- The Coastal Plains are strips running from the Northeast region to Rio de Janeiro where the escarpment called the *serra do Mar* determines the width of the plain.

Fig. 3 – BRAZILIAN TOPOGRAPHY

- The Brazilian Highlands are separated from the Guyana Highlands by the Amazon Plain. These highlands cover the majority of Brazilian territory. In the southern part, they drop precipitously to the sea to form escarpments along the coastline.

Brazil's climate is influenced by the geographic position of the country as well as by other elements such as latitude, ocean mass, winds, rainfall, and temperatures. However, five main climatic zones exist:

Fig. 4 – MAJOR CLIMATE ZONES

- The equatorial zone is hot and humid with rainfall throughout the year and an annual temperature average of 27°C or 78°F. It has no real dry season, although there are considerable variations in the amount of rains and seasonal frequency of the rainfall. The difference between the hottest and coldest month is only 5°C.

- The tropical zone is humid and hot with plentiful rainfall especially in the summertime. The annual temperature ranges from 23°C (73°F) to 27°C (78°F) on the seacoast and from 18°C (65°F) to 21°C (70°F) in the highlands.

- The semiarid zone is hot and dry with a very short wet season. The rainfall is irregular and undependable, and this section of the country is known as *polígono das secas* (polygon of drought). The average annual rainfall is less than 700 millimeters (25 inches). It is the hottest part of Brazil with temperatures of more than 38°C (100°F) for several months.

- The tropical continental zone alternates between humid and dry seasons. The climate is moderated by the altitude and is relatively cool with a temperature range of 17°C (64°F) to 21°C (70°F).

- The subtropical zone is warm and humid in the summer and mild in the winter. However, occasionally frost and snow flurries occur.

Six distinct types of natural vegetation areas are found in Brazil. They are: Equatorial Forest, *Cerrado*, *Caatinga*, Tropical Rain Forest, *Araucária*, and *Campos*.

In the north there is the Equatorial Forest which covers more than one-half of the country and one quarter of the continent. According to some biologists and geographers, this forest contains one-third of all vegetation on the surface of the earth. Throughout the forest, rivers provide almost the only means of penetrating into the interior.

In the central plateau there is the woodland savanna, *Cerrado* consisting mainly of scrubland which makes it unsuitable for growing crops without the use of fertilizers.

In the area of the northeast backlands known as the *Sertão* there is a scrubby woodland known as the *Caatinga* with abundant cactus plants. Along the seacoast there is the Tropical Rain forest, most of which has been cleared and planted with sugar cane, cotton, cacao, coffee, and other crops. In the southern part there is the *Araucária* (subtropical forest) with semideciduous pine trees and broadleaf deciduous trees. Along the Argentinian and Uruguaian borders there are the *Campos* (grasslands) where millions of head of cattle are found.

With 90 percent of the country within the tropical zone, Brazil's climates are influenced by the Atlantic Ocean and other ecological conditions that affected the patterns of the population distribution. This distribution also is partly due to historical events. First settlements by the Portuguese were along the coast, and the development of Brazil for more than four centuries was determined by the demand of external markets.

In Brazil, there are three important river systems, the Amazon, the Paraná-Paraguay-Uruguay, and the São Francisco.

Fig. 5 – MAIN RIVER SYSTEMS

In the north, the Amazon is the world's greatest river system with 17 of its tributaries being more than 1,600 kilometers (1,100 miles) long. In the south, the rivers Paranã, Paraguay, and Uruguay are the principal watersources of the Plata Basin. It is the world's seventh largest river system and provides hydroelectric potential for four countries. Connecting the southeast with the northeast is the São Francisco system that flows through the hot and dry land of the backlands. All of these rivers are of obvious importance for connecting the interior of the country with the Atlantic Ocean and had an important part in the exploration of colonial Brazil. They are equally important as a source of hydroelectric power, irrigation, and commercial waterways and have exercised a powerful influence in the development of Brazil.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

When the first census took place in Brazil in 1872, there were 9,930,478 inhabitants. A century later the Brazilian population had reached 93,139,073. According to estimates of the Population Bureau, by mid 1970 the population of the country was 115,400,000, a figure surpassed only by China, India, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Indonesia. The population increase, over two million a year, is due to natural growth. The birth rate is high (2.8 percent annually), and there has been a decrease in the death rate (0.4 percent).

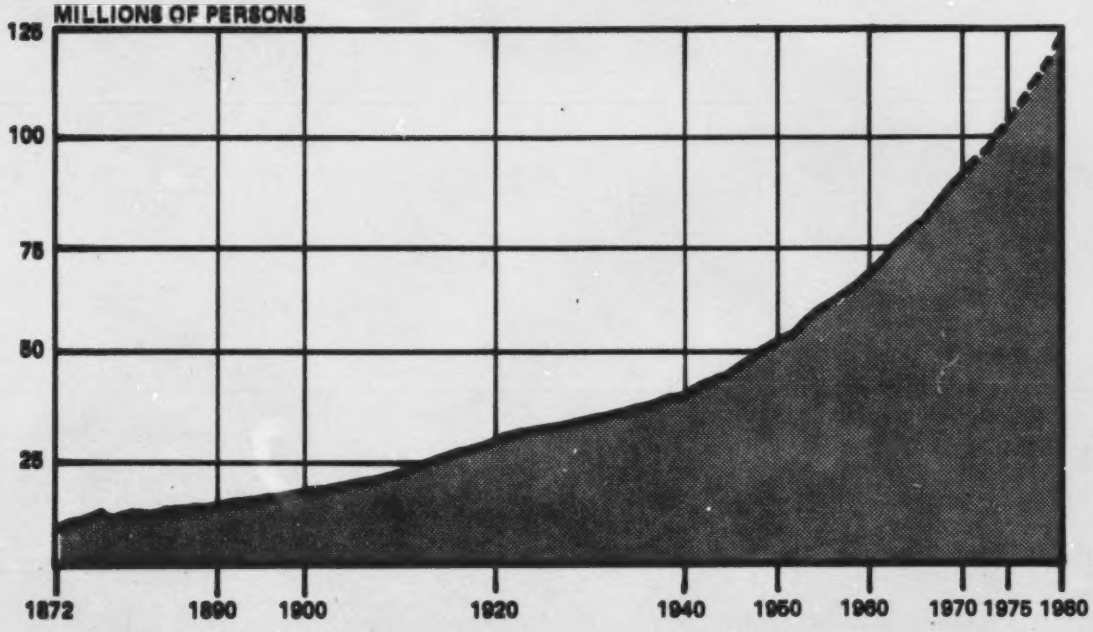


Fig. 6 – POPULATION INCREASE

Immigration between 1872 and 1970 contributed 5,972,687 persons to the total population. Responsible for the largest percent of immigrants were Portuguese (31 percent), Italian (29 percent), Spanish (12 percent), Germany (5 percent), and Japanese (4 percent). Other nationalities accounted for 19 percent. These contingents made a fairly significant contribution to the population of the southern part of the country.

However, considering its size, Brazil is sparsely populated with an average density of 13 inhabitants per square kilometer or 33 per square mile. (The United States has 58 inhabitants per square mile, and the state of Texas has 42 persons per square mile.)

The pattern of population distribution in 1970 was characterized by a heavy concentration of inhabitants along the Atlantic coast where the majority of the largest cities of Brazil are located: Belém, Fortaleza, Recife, Salvador, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and Porto Alegre. The demographic density along the coast is over 100 inhabitants per square kilometer. In contrast, there are empty lands in the deep interior in the states of Amazonas, Pará, and Mato Grosso, and in the four territories, with areas with less than one person per square kilometer.

The latest data reveal that in the space of just 30 years, Brazil has been transformed from a rural society to an urban one. In 1950, only 36 percent of the inhabitants of the country lived in cities; in 1960, almost half of the Brazilians still remained in rural lands. By 1970, however, the majority was urban (56 percent). By the 1980s, 78 million or 64 percent of the people will be living in urban environments.

Two cities, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, have been the chief attractions of the migrations. However, since 1960 there have been movements toward the interior with the establishment of Brasília as the national capital.

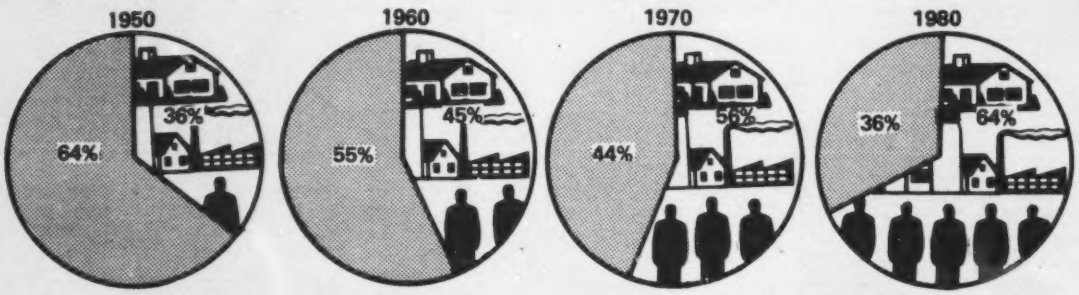


Fig. 7 – RURAL-URBAN POPULATION SHIFT

URBAN

RURAL

The majority of the population of Brazil is of European ancestry, and the culture of these people gave the country a distinctive heritage. In addition to being of Caucasoid European (Portuguese) racial stock, the Brazilian people are, in the main, of American (American Indian) and Negroid (African) races. The intermarriage of these groups and the racial tolerance of the Portuguese resulted in a melting pot of races and cultures with one official language, Portuguese. The white Portuguese mixed with natives and black slaves, and types of *mestiços* such as the *caboclo* and the *mulato* emerged. From mixed black and Indian came the *mestiços* called *cafuso*. More recently, mixing among whites and Japanese has resulted in the *Ainocô*. In spite of these multiracial origins, Brazil has developed a society which is remarkable for its cultural unity. Today there is a relatively small number of Indians, about 100,000, most of whom inhabit the dense forest of the Amazon.

In spite of the variety of land and the different backgrounds of the inhabitants, Brazilians possess a strong feeling that they form one people and one nation. They speak Portuguese, have common pasts, and share common heroes and common ideas.

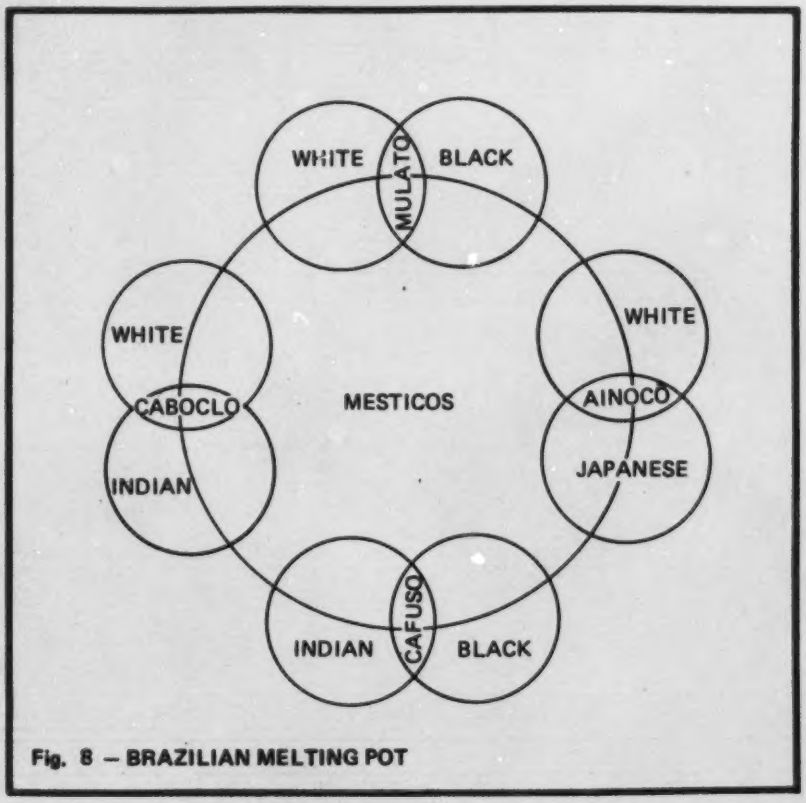


Fig. 8 – BRAZILIAN MELTING POT

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTRY

A regional approach to the study of Brazil provides meaningful insights into the land, modes of life, differences in economic development, and how all regions work together in a functional system.

Brazil has 27 political unities divided into five major regions. These are the North or *Amazônia,* the Northeast, the Southeast, the South, and Central West.

Fig. 9 – REGIONS OF BRAZIL

The North region or *Amazônia* comprises the states of Acre, Amazonas, and Pará and the territories of Rondonia, Roraima, and Amapá. The Northeast includes the states of Maranhao, Piauí, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe, and Bahia and the territory of Fernando de Noronha. The Southeast comprises the states of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, and Sao Paulo. The South includes the states of Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande de Sul. In the Central West, are the states of Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, and the federal district.

The heavily-wooded *Amazônia* contrasts with the semiarid Northeast. The South is the region preferred by immigrants. In the Central West, an impressive march of persons coming from all other regions is taking place. Dominating the regional system is the Southeast with almost half of the Brazilian population.

The Amazônia or North Region

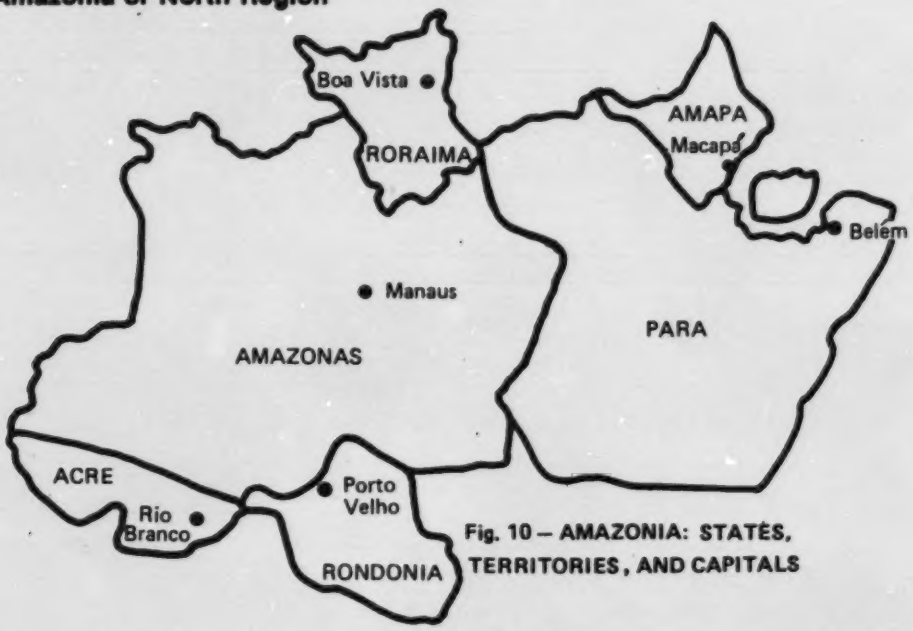


Fig. 10 – AMAZONIA: STATES, TERRITORIES, AND CAPITALS

The North region *(Amazônia)* accounts for almost one half of Brazil's territory (42 percent) and has the Amazon River and the Equatorial Forest that spreads over 50 percent of the area of Brazil.

The Amazon River with its tributaries has a volume of water equal to none in the world. It drains a vast plain that is covered by the largest and densest rain forest on earth--the Equatorial Forest--with a chaos of vegetation fighting for soil and sunlight. The secrets of this compact, swampy jungle, with its exotic wildlife and hot and humid climate, are being revealed because of road building programs and development of commercial enterprises.

The *Amazônia,* in spite of being Brazil's largest region in area--3,554,000 square kilometers--is the least populated with a population in 1975 of approximately 4,300,000 inhabitants. This results in a demographic density of less than two inhabitants per square kilometer. Most of the people are located in Manaus (400,000 population) and Belém (700,000 population). Along the principal rivers, there are some small towns; along the banks of secondary rivers, there are small settlements.

The main explanation of the scarcity of population is the traditional isolation of the region. At the end of the last century, when the rubber boom started, there was an increase of inhabitants, most of them from the Northeast region. With the collapse of that activity about 1920, the region became more underdeveloped, and cities like Manaus and Belém declined.

In the late 1960s, the government established fiscal incentives for projects such as a duty-free port in Manaus, industry, farming, and above all, for unprecedented roadbuilding programs, contributing to the rediscovery of the *Amazônia*. The roads, parallel or transverse to the Amazon River, are attracting people from other regions, and the patterns of population distribution in the North region are changing.

The roads are opening a new era for the region and integrating it into the Brazilian system of regions. The dependence of *Amazônia* on waterways and airplanes was partially broken in 1965 when the Belém-Brasília highway was opened. The *Transamazônica* highway, officially opened in 1973, has 5,000 kilometers of roadway connecting the crowded northeastern part of the country with the Peruvian and Bolivian frontiers in the west. Other important roads are being paved or built connecting the principal cities in the region.

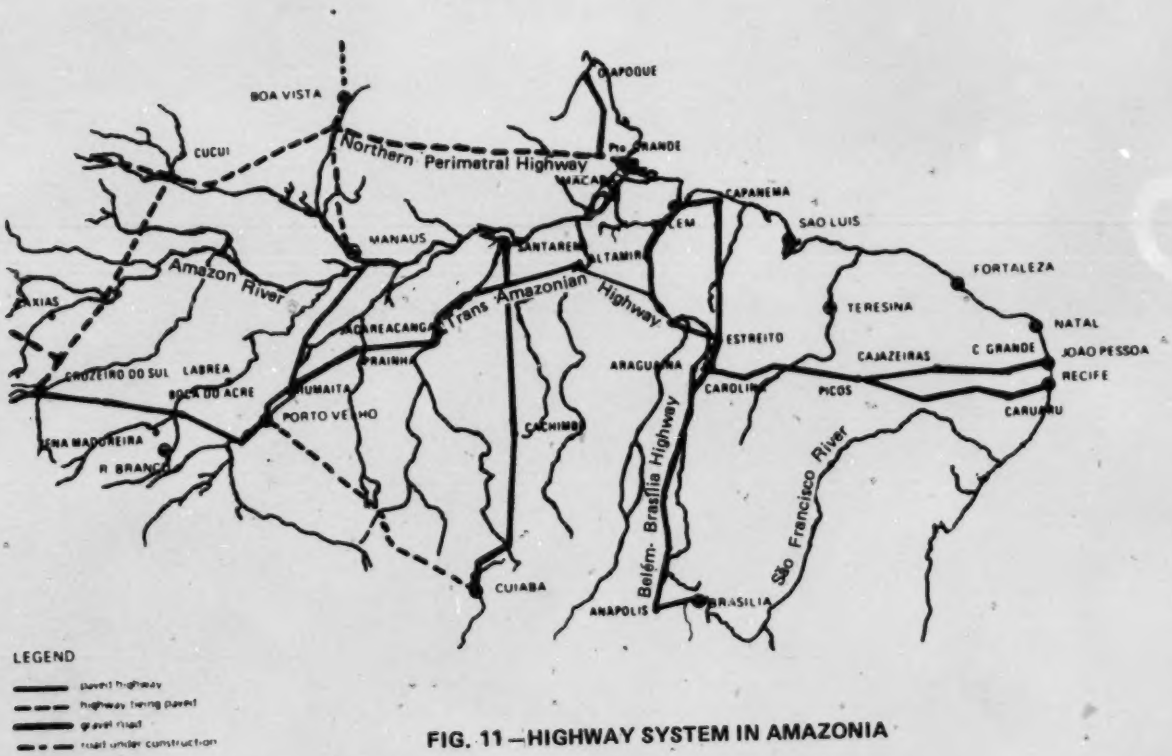


FIG. 11—HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN AMAZONIA

The Amazonian economy is still dependent on the collection of forest products such as rubber, Brazil nuts, and lumber. However, agricultural activity is taking place in the region, especially near Belém where Japanese immigrants raise black peppers, corn, tobacco, peanuts, and *mandioca*. The general method of cultivation is still "slash and burn," which involves cutting down and burning the forest for a small garden. Crops are cultivated for a few years, and then the land is allowed to return to the forest. In the flood plain of the Amazon River, jute is a major export crop. The major mineral resources are manganese, iron ore, tin, and--in the river beds--gold and precious stones. In the areas of grasslands, there is livestock. Hunting and fishing are important in all areas. The duty-free port status of Manaus is a factor in increasing commerce, industry, and tourism.

The Northeast as a Problem Region

The Northeast region covers an area of about 1,500,000 square kilometers (18 percent of the nation's territory). Some 32,000,000 inhabitants live in the region which has the highest birthrate in the country. The land mass is full of contrasts. The seaboard presents a forest zone with fertile soil suitable for sugar cane, while the interior includes the arid *Sertão*. This zone is subject to periodic droughts, lasting from one to three years. The droughts and the poverty of the land regularly force large numbers of persons to move to the coastal cities or to other parts of the country.

Fig. 12 – NORTHEAST: STATES AND CAPITALS

Despite the conditions, the Northeast is still one of the most densely populated areas in Brazil. Some states--Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, and Sergipe--have more inhabitants per square kilometer than Paraná, in the southern part of the country, which has large areas of excellent agricultural land. In 1959 a special agency, the *SUDENE,* was created by the Brazilian federal government to coordinate and supervise the economic development of the region.

The agency is responsible for the development of public facilities capable of overcoming the deficiencies of the region. Its work includes the development of new highways, electrical energy sources, telecommunications systems, public housing, educational facilities, and irrigation systems. These developments are designed to promote an effective economic integration of the region with the rest of the country.

The majority of the large Northeastern cities are located along the seacoast. They include Sao Luís, Fortaleza, Recife, Maceió, and Salvador. In the past few years, rapid industrialization has occurred, especially in Recife and Salvador. Different kinds of lifestyles and wide social disparities have emerged.

In the seacoast subregion, known as the *Zona da Mata,* the first colonists were Portuguese, Dutch, and French. They cultivated sugar cane. This crop supplied Europe with sugar, was responsible for the introduction of black slavery in Brazil, and brought fortunes to landlords. Other important crops in the zone are cacao, rice, bananas, coconut, pineapples, and cashews.

In the arid *Sertão* in the interior, the soil is sandy and hard; however, there is some agriculture with rudimentary techniques still practiced. The area produces cotton, *mandioca,* sisal (or agave), sweet potatoes, beans, *carnáuba* wax, and corn. But the traditional economic activity is raising livestock. The cattle (18 percent of the national herd) are not of the same quality as in other regions of the country, and the livestock industry typically employs outdated methods of production.

The main mineral resources in the Northeast are salt, petroleum, gypsum, phosphates, lead, chrome, gypsite, magnesite, and marble. Intensive offshore explorations for oil are taking place to expand the production of oil to meet the increasing demand.

The Southeast: The Core Region

Fig. 13 – SOUTHEAST: STATES AND CAPITALS

The Southeast region covers about 10 percent of the Brazilian territory and contains almost half of the Brazilian population (42 percent).

In this section of the country, the Brazilian highlands reach their highest elevation, and the rivers flowing from the area are important sources of electrical energy. The narrow coastal plain is paralleled by a great jagged wall called the Great Escarpment (or *Serras*) that in early times was an obstacle to the penetration of the interior. Between the Escarpment and the coast, the climate is hot and humid and has abundant rainfall. Here the forest has been heavily devastated by intensive land use. In the interior, especially in higher altitudes, the climate is cooler. The vegetation includes the semideciduous forest and the grassland (*Cerrado*) which is important for feeding livestock.

The highest demographic densities in Brazil and the majority of the large cities are located in the region. The Southeast is known as Brazil's economic heart. Its dynamism is a reflection of the role of the region as a center of agricultural, industrial, and commercial development. In short, it is the region that dominates all other regions in Brazil.

The settlement of the region dates back to Brazil's earliest history in the sixteenth century when the *Bandeirantes* (flag bearers) began the conquest of the Amazon Basin and the Central West regions. These pioneers left São Paulo in search of Indian slaves, gold, and precious stones. They contributed decisively to the consolidating of present-day Brazil. The discovery of gold--principally in Minas Gerais--occurred when the sugar cane industry was beginning to decline in the Northeastern part of the country. Between 1700 and 1800, Brazilians rushed to gold and diamond fields causing towns to spring up in the region. The colonial capital was transferred in 1763 from Salvador to Rio de Janeiro, which became the major port city of Brazil. In the late nineteenth century and extending into the twentieth century, the coffee boom occurred in Brazil--principally in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. As the demand for coffee increased internationally, prices went higher and higher, providing the capital to establish industries that began modernization of the country.

Natural conditions and human resources have contributed to the development of the Southeast region. Expansion of coffee plantations was possible with the presence in São Paulo of the *terra-roxa* (red-purple soil) of uncommon fertility. The soil, topography, rainfall, and mild temperatures combine to make the coffee harvest flourish almost all year around. Coffee crops exhaust the soil very quickly, as occurred in Rio de Janeiro. Now coffee plantations are being developed in the South and Central West regions. International competition from the rest of Latin America and Africa has significantly dropped the percentage of Brazilian production in the world market. Diversification of agriculture in the region has also reduced the importance of coffee in the Brazilian economy. In 1975, coffee exportation represented only 10.7 percent of the total country's foreign trade. However, the earlier coffee boom created enormous fortunes which were invested in the establishment of industries.

In recent years, principally after World War II, industrialization rapidly increased in the Southeast region and caused an influx of inhabitants from other regions to the great cities. According to estimates in mid 1975, this part of the country has 45,312,731 inhabitants, and the cities' population densities had significantly increased. In Rio de Janeiro, for example, some areas had 28,000 people per square kilometer or 72,000 people living in each square mile. As a consequence, today there is a lack of housing, schools, hospitals, and sewage systems in the peripheries of these cities, and the economic development of the region cannot absorb in productive jobs the mass of human beings.

São Paulo was founded in 1554 and remained a small town until the mid 1800s when the coffee boom took place. With the development of industry, the city became one of the largest cities in the world. Greater São Paulo has more than 10,000,000 inhabitants and is the most industrialized city in Latin America, producing more than half of the industrial output of Brazil. Rio de Janeiro is the second largest city in the country with about 8,000,000 in its metropolitan area. It was the country's capital from 1763 until 1960 when the government moved the capital to the new city of Brasília in the Central West. Other large cities in the region are Belo Horizonte, Campinas, Santos, Campos, and Vitória.

The cumulative forces of the Southeast region have contributed to the diversity of the Brazilian economy. In addition to gold, there are iron ore, manganese, zircons, bauxite, lead, nickel, mica, and quartz in the region. Coffee, sugar cane, tropical fruits, cotton, beans, corn, soybean, rice, and peanuts are among the chief agricultural products. Spectacular industrial growth has occurred, increasing the production of automobiles, airplanes, ships, textiles, plastics, elevators, precision instruments, communications equipment, shoes, paper, synthetic rubber, wine, packaged meat, dairy products, cigars and cigarettes, chemical and pharmaceutical goods, radios, television, and small computers.

A complex of railroads, highway systems, and ports were built and are still being developed to promote the circulation of the region's wealth to connect the Southeast cities with the interior and with all other regions of the country.

The potential of electric energy generated in the region is being constantly increased. Large enterprises are building dams on the principal rivers, and the first nuclear plant is in the final phase of construction in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

The Individuality of the Southern Region

Fig. 14 – SOUTH: STATES AND CAPITALS

Occupying about 7 percent of the total area of Brazil, the South is the least extensive of the nation's regions. The land is dominated by a subtropical climate, low temperatures, frequent frosts, and occasional snow. Therefore, the Southern region differs greatly from the rest of the country. The landforms vary from a coastal plain--extending to the border of Uruguay--to the highlands of the interior, with vegetation of pines and tropical forest.

In mid 1975, the population of the region reached almost 20,000,000 inhabitants, with the majority being of Portuguese, Italian, German, Polish, and Japanese ancestry. The people cultivate the land on small farms or on large plantations; raise livestock as one of the most important economic activities in the *campos;* and live in villages, towns, and large cities.

Despite the frosts, the state of Paraná is the nation's largest producer. All states of the region cultivate soybeans, wheat, corn, rice, beans, *mandioca,* potatoes, and fruits. Also harvested in the region is *ervamate,* whose leaves are used to make a tea-like drink which is popular in the Southern region.

Here also are raised cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep, which in 1975 totaled about 40,000,000 head.

Lumbering, based principally on Paraná pine reserves, is among the most important industries in Brazil. The region is poor in mineral resources, although some copper, coal, lead, tin, and silver are mined.

In the cities of Porto Alegre, Curitiba, Florianopólis, Blumenau, Paranaguá, and Joinville there is a great variety of industries, some of which rank high in the overall national production. Produced are leather, shoes, wine, textiles, and packaged meat.

A good system of highways and railroads connects the region with the rest of the nation and with other countries on Brazil's southern frontier.

The Central West: A Pioneer Region

Fig. 15 – CENTRAL WEST: STATES AND CAPITALS

The Central West is a huge region--22 percent of Brazil's territory--surpassed only by *Amazônia*. An underpopulated region, in mid 1975 it had about 6,000,000 inhabitants.

Geographically located in the center of the South American continent, this region has as its dominant topography the Brazilian highlands and the lowlands of Plata and the Amazon Basin. The climate is tropical with a small variation in temperature during the seasons. The vegetation is the *Cerrado* with soil fairly fertile; however, the northern part of the region is part of the Amazonian Forest. The cities in the region remained in almost total isolation until the mid 1900s when the building of railroads and roads began. Since 1960 when the federal capital of Brasília was built, this immense region has begun to be developed and people have been attracted to the deep interior.

The march into the interior of the country began in the sixteenth century with the *Bandeirantes*. However, with the decline of gold mining in the 1800s, cities like Cuiabá and Goiás remained on the fringes of the development. Indian communities still exist in the interior, and there is an area of 30,000 square kilometers--the Xingu National Park--that serves as a reserve for Indian tribes.

The presence of fertile soil in Goiás, the cattle raising in Mato Grosso do Sul, and the promise of valuable minerals (gold, cobalt, zinc, diamond, quartz, tungsten, and chromium) became major attractions to the people of overcrowded cities along the coast. The "race to the west" increased with the construction of Brasília in 1957. In a couple of years, a great city had emerged in the center of the country. To reach the new administrative center, it was necessary to build roads and highways through a vast and formerly dormant hinterland. The Belém-Brasília, Brasília-Acre, and Rio-Brasília Highways and other important roads represent segments of national integration.

The idea of removing the federal district from Rio de Janeiro to the interior was included in the Constitution of 1946. But not until 1956, under the direction of President Juscelino Kubitschek, was high priority given to the project of building a new capital city. An international competition for a city plan took place. The airplane design of Lúcio Costa, a Brazilian city planner, won. The building of Brasília began and was inaugurated in 1960.

Situated on the central plateau, Brasília now has a population of about 800,000 and is one of the most modern cities in the world. It is divided into district areas which are separated from one another: governmental, business, commercial, and residential. Modern buildings have been designed by Oscar Neimeyer, a Brazilian architect. The government sector occupies the monumental axis (the fuselage of the airplane design) that is flanked by two wings of nongovernmental, urban land uses. Two major roads that cross the city are designed without intersections to make travel safer and easier.

Around Brasília itself there are several satellite cities with high population densities. The inhabitants of these settlements are linked economically to the construction and functioning of Brasília. They were attracted from all the other Brasilian regions, especially from the rural areas.

Fig. 16 – PLAN OF BRASILIA

1 – RAILWAY STATION
2 – MUNICIPAL PLAZA
3 – BOTANICAL GARDENS
4 – COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AREA
5 – PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE

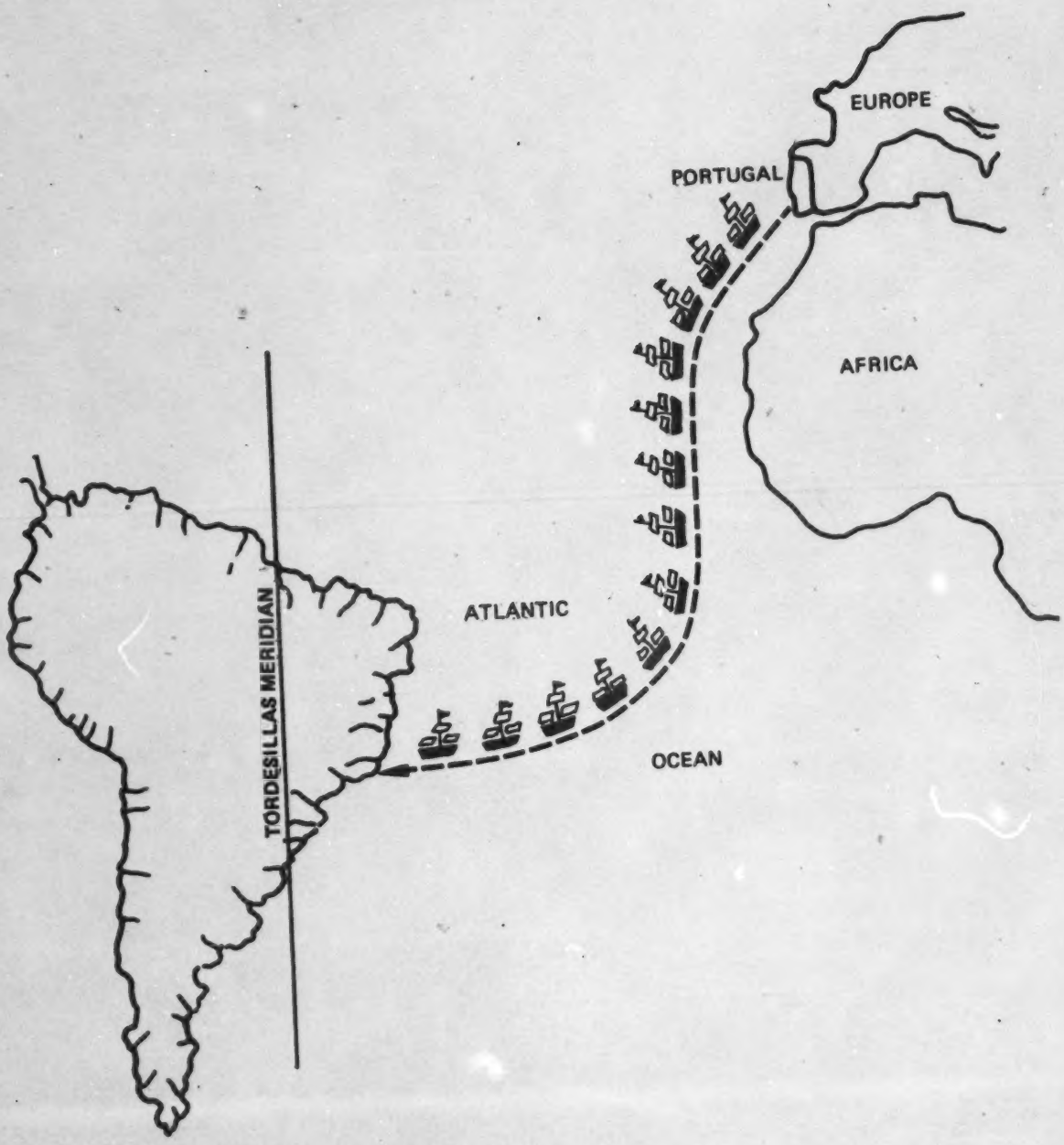
Brasília is seen as a landmark for the present and a hope for the future of a unified country. It is also a stimulus to the development of the deep interior.

Brazil has characteristics that are helping the Brazilians build a prosperous nation. The country is one of the largest in the world, both in territory and population. There are many facets to its physical features--plains, highlands, tropical and subtropical climates, rain forest and scrub vegetation, rich and poor soils. The land was settled by people from different origins: Indians, Europeans, Africans, and Asians. These ethnic groups brought contributions to language, political and economic organization, costume, and religion. The blend among them created a people proud of their country and of their unique heritage. Although Brazil still presents great extremes in wealth and poverty and

in education and health, the Brazilian people are pursuing new economic frontiers, investing in education, discovering new resources, improving agricultures, and developing new industrial areas to reduce its gap with the developed countries. The conquest of isolated areas-- *Amazônia* and the Central West--is occurring on a large scale, and new highways and railroads are connecting the coastal zone with the deep interior. However, along with this spirit of progress, there is much to be accomplished.

UNIT II

BRAZIL: HISTORICAL ROOTS



BRAZIL AS A PORTUGUESE COLONY (1500-1815)

Until the fifteenth century, the Atlantic Ocean represented a geographical barrier to the overseas expansion of European people. Portugal, a small nation located in the exteme west of the Iberian Peninsula, was one of the first countries to become interested in exploring this ocean.

Prince Henry the Navigator established in the 1400s a school in Portugal in which navigators were trained. Christopher Columbus and Vaso da Gama attended this school. The former set sail from Spain, crossed the Atlantic, and discovered the American continent in 1492; the latter sailed around the African continent and reached India in 1498. This voyage brought great wealth to Portugal.

As a result of their discoveries, Spain and Portugal had conflicting claims about the new lands. Arbitrating these disputes in 1493, Pope Alexander VI divided the unexplored parts of the world between Spain and Portugal. The papal demarcation meridian, an imaginary line through the North and South Poles, gave to Spain the lands found 100 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands and to Portugal the lands located east of this line. By this demarcation, Portugal would not receive any land on the South American continent. A year later, 1494, the Kings of Spain and Portugal settled their differences with the Treaty of Tordesillas, which moved the papal demarcation farther west 370 leagues. In effect, part of the Brazilian lands, not yet officially discovered, now belonged to Portugal.

Discovery and Colonization

In 1500, the King of Portugal, Manuel I, sent a fleet of 13 ships and 1,200 men under the command of Pedro Álvares Cabral to establish the Portuguese domain in India and to claim part of the New World for his sovereign.

On April 22, 1500, Cabral reached the east coast of the South American continent and discovered Brazil. At first he thought that the land was a large island. He took possession of it for Portugal and sent men and a ship back to inform the King. After spending a week reconnoitering the coast, Cabral continued his voyage to Asia.

Several other Portuguese expeditions came to the newly discovered land and found an abundance of brazilwood, which was used in European textile industries to make a red dye. From this wood was derived the name of the country--Brazil.

Until 1530, Brazil received little attention from Portugal because the King was interested only in the wealth of the India trade. Consequently, French pirates looking for brazilwood came to explore the extensive coastline in spite of Portuguese protests. They bartered with the native Indians, exchanged trinkets for brazilwood, and intended to remain in Brazil. In 1532 the King of Portugal, João III, sent forces to drive out the French and decided to begin the colonization of Brazil.

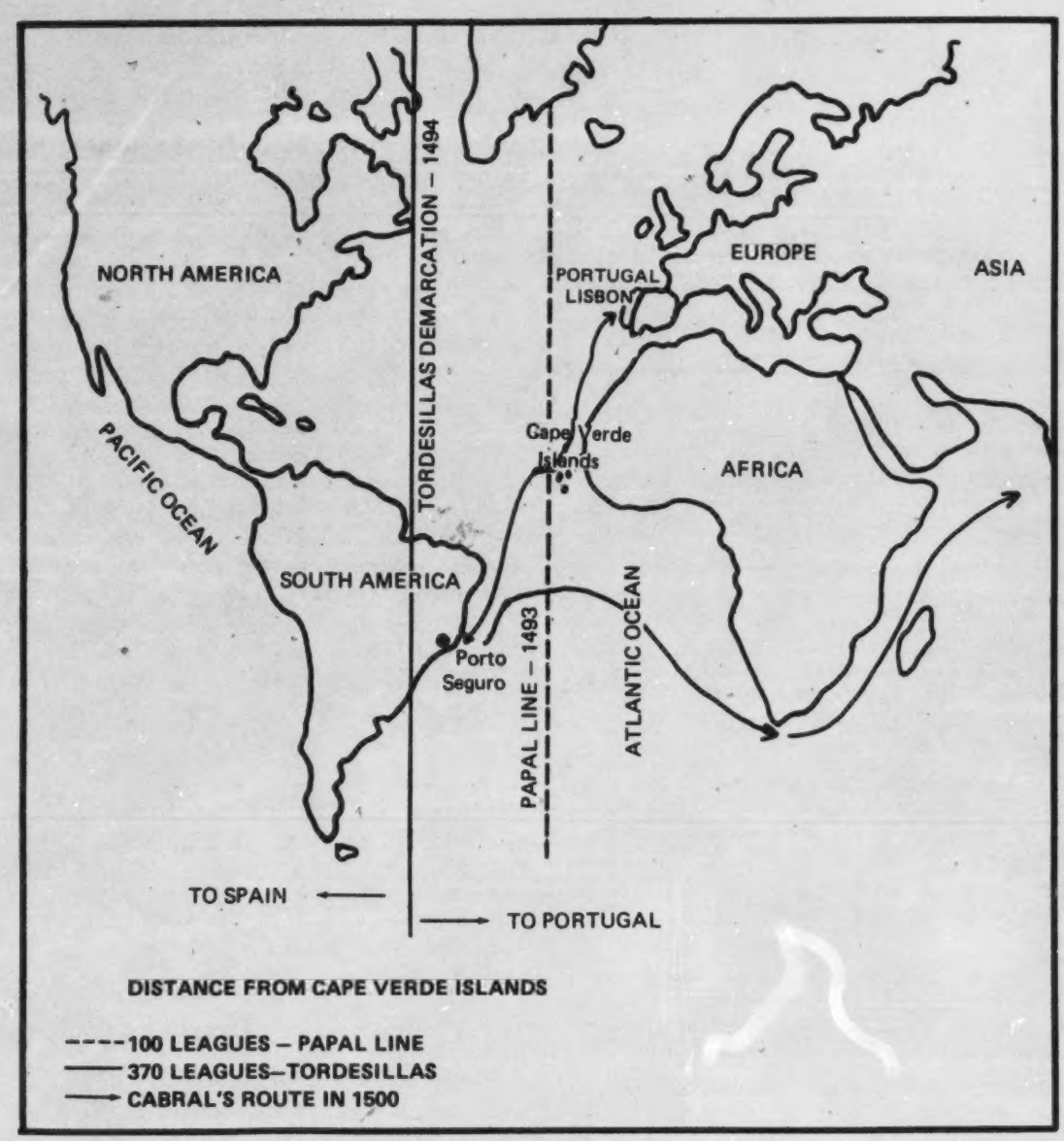


Fig. 17 – CABRAL'S ROUTE TO BRAZIL AND INDIA

The monarch divided the land into 15 districts called captaincies, each about 150 miles in length along the Atlantic coast and having as the west limit the line of the meridian of Tordesillas. These captaincies had as their major objective the reduction of the threat of French invaders and the establishment of the first permanent settlements in Portuguese America.

The captaincies were inalienable land grants given by the King to rich Portuguese who had to assume the colonization of their lands. They collected taxes, imposed law and justice, and divided their captaincies in *sesmarias*. The *sesmarias*, or *latifundia* were huge estates and until today remain a characteristic of land property in Brazil.

Only two of the recipients of the land grants were successful, Duarte Coelho in Pernambuco and Martin Afonso in São Vicente (presently near the city of Santos). The rest of the captaincies failed. As a result, the King of Portugal centralized the administration of the captaincies and appointed Tomé de Souza as the first governor general in charge of civil and military administration of Brazil.

Tomé de Souza arrived at Todos os Santos Bay in 1549 and founded the city of Salvador, the first Brazilian capital. Under his administration, he stopped the French invaders and introduced sugar cane and cattle raising which caused the colony to become profitable.

The northeastern part of the colony had an environment that was most suitable for sugar cane, and immense plantations occupied the coastal hills. In the interior, cattle ranches were established. As a result of the geographic position of the northeast in relation to the European market, its trade became highly lucrative. The number of sugar mills quickly increased, and powerful agricultural, industrial, and social organizations developed.

The Colonial Society

Because Portugal had been ruled for many centuries by dark-skinned Moors from North Africa, the Portuguese were flexible in their new environment and had less color prejudice than many northern Europeans. They adapted quickly to tropical Brazil and accepted a racial mixture of Indian and black slaves with some tolerance.

When the Portuguese landed in Brazil, they found Indians organized in tribes, living in small and temporary villages located along river banks, with a primitive system of agriculture, and no written communication. Most of the tribes had a general chief and a shaman or medicine man who communed with the spirits, gave advice, and prescribed medicines.

The diverse tribes were grouped into two major classifications:

- Tupi-Guarani, inhabitants along the Amazon River and the coastal zone
- Tapuya, located deeper in the interior

All the Indians had some physical characteristics in common: short stature; bronze coloring; and straight, black hair. They lived communally in large huts, in extended family or lineage groups. Usually they practiced monogamy. Their religion was elementary, abounding with good and bad spirits. The men hunted, collected forest products, and fished. They also cleared the forest and spent part of their time preparing and participating in wars between different tribes. The women planted and harvested *mandioca*, tobacco, maize, beans, potatoes, yams, and peppers. According to conservative estimates, there were about one million Indians in Brazil at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The Indians were protected by Jesuit priests who Christianized and civilized them; therefore, the practice of enslaving Indians failed because of severe opposition from the missionaries against slave raiders.

The contributions of Indians to Brazilian life were remarkable and diverse: new agricultural crops, language, art, habits, religion, source of labor. From the intermarriage of Portuguese with Indians, a new ethnic group appeared, the *Caboclo,* adaptable both phyiscally and psychologically to the land.

As the sugar cane industry expanded with the increasing demand of European markets, a labor shortage soon developed and the colonists turned to another source of labor--slaves from Africa. The blacks proved well adapted to work in sugar plantations and with other crops. A conservative estimate of the number of slaves imported to Brazil in three centuries is about 3,500,000.

The African origins of the slaves who came to Brazil were principally from Guinea, the Congo area, and East Africa. They belonged to the Sudanese and the Bantu groups. For many years, Brazil's prosperity was based on plantations, gold, and slavery.

The blacks mixed with white and Indian, and new *mestiços* appeared in the Brazilian society. They could be found especially in the agricultural areas along the coast and in Minas Gerais where they mined gold and diamonds.

Sometimes the slaves rebelled against the inhuman treatment of their masters by setting fire to plantations and escaping into the interior where they established small settlements called *auilombos* (colonies of runaway slaves). All of these settlements were destroyed by Portuguese expeditions in the early seventeenth century.

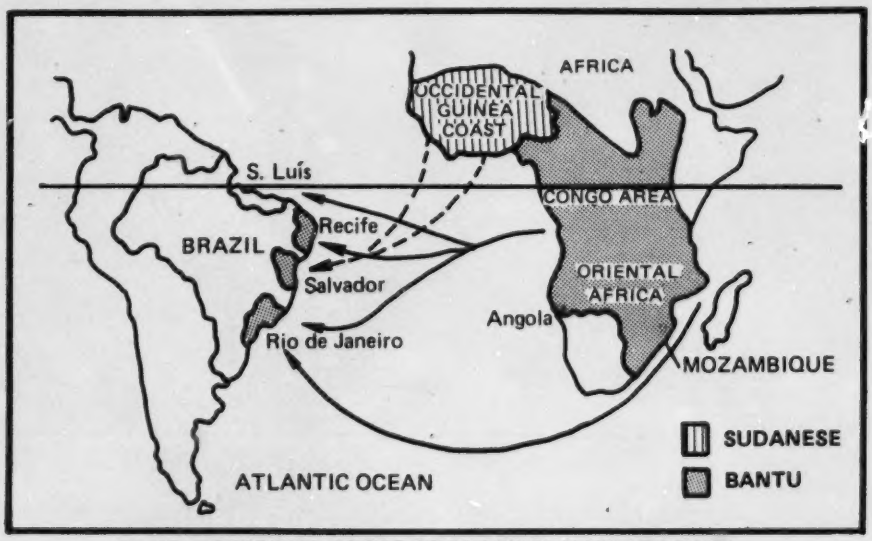


Fig. 18 – ORIGINAL AREAS OF BLACK SLAVES OF BRAZIL AND PORTS OF RECEPTION

The contribution of blacks to Brazilian society was great and varied. They introduced new foods, artifacts, music, dance, religion, vocabulary, clothing, and above all, a labor force. In addition to working in the fields, blacks were carpenters, painters, masons, jewelers, locksmiths, blacksmiths, tailors, and cobblers. They helped to explore the interior and to expel foreign invaders.

The Portuguese transplanted their social, economic, and political institutions to Brazil. They adapted to their new environment but depended heavily on the Indians to explore the land. When the blacks arrived from Africa, the same process of exploration continued and increased in intensity. The beginning of the colonization started an interbreeding of Portuguese with Indians and then with blacks. This process gave the country a melting pot of races, and a new people emerged--the Brazilians, proud of their heritage and their unique society.

The colonial society was preeminently rural, depending on sugar plantations in the northeastern coastal zone and cattle ranches in the hinterland. It had as its labor base the slaves on which all other classes depended. The Roman Catholic church represented an important role, and religion was susceptible to African and Indian influences.

A profound transformation took place in the colonial society when gold and diamonds were discovered, increasing the wealth of Brazil. However, as the colony developed, more restrictions were imposed upon her by the mother country.

Territorial Expansion

In early colonial days, the first steps in expanding the Brazilian territory were the building of towns and forts along the coast and increased cattle raising in the hinterland. With the sugar cane crop, the colonists became prosperous, attracting more settlers from Portugal, which resulted in more towns and cities along the Atlantic coast.

The increasing demand for sugar in European markets caused Brazilian forests to be cleared for planting cane, opened new territories, and created a demand for more workers. Meanwhile, the massive importation of slaves from Africa contributed to the growth of the colonial population.

Until the year 1580, exploration of the deep interior was limited; only curiosity moved the colonists to learn what the hinterland could offer. It was not until the latter part of the seventeenth century, however, that major exploration of the area took place.

The union of the crowns of Portugal and Spain between 1580 and 1640 under the Spanish King was of extreme importance for the territorial expansion of Portuguese Brazil. Without the rivalry between these countries, the boundary of Tordesillas, established in 1494, was voided and the inland penetration was then facilitated.

A movement called *Bandeiras,* which sent expeditions to the deep interior and whose participants were known as *Bandeirantes* (flag bearers), became the most important factor in conquering the interior and in shaping a new territory to Brazil.

The majority of *Bandeirantes* were offsprings of Indians and Portuguese. They were well adapted to the land and the hardships of the interior. They departed from São Paulo, marched through the *Sertão* (the backlands)--northward, southward, and westward having as their principal purpose to enslave Indians and to obtain precious metals and land.

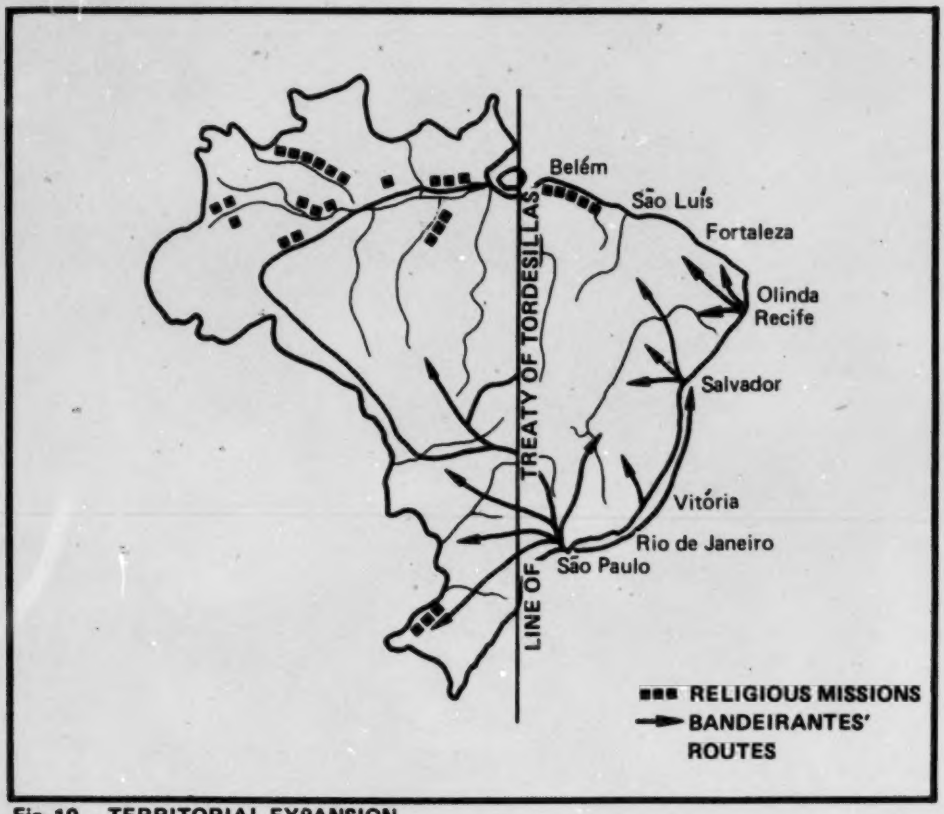


Fig. 19 – TERRITORIAL EXPANSION

The *Bandeirantes* traversed immense distances mainly by foot or canoe, crossed swamps and dense forests, and climbed inhospitable mountains. The rivers running toward the interior represented an important role in their movements. The discovery of new, remote regions and the opening of new routes of communication to enlarge the Brazilian territory were crucial when Portugal separated from Spain in 1640. Through several treaties, Brazil confirmed its ownership of the land conquered by the *Bandeirantes* and gained almost all the present-day territory, as well as the unity of the country.

Another part of Brazilian territorial expansion was the recapture of some important regions along the Brazilian coast. The French, English, and Dutch tried to occupy some parts of colonial Brazil. The French, after their expulsion from Rio de Janeiro, where they had been for 12 years, tried to colonize Maranhão. The English attacked Bahia, Pernambuco, and São Paulo. The Dutch colonized some parts of the northeast, especially Bahia and Pernambuco, and their presence in Brazil was significant for development of sugar cane industries and of the city of Recife--capital of the captaincy of Pernambuco. The wars of reconquest against these invaders awoke the first national sentiments among the colonists, and they infused into Brazilians a new pride in their land and in their heritage.

Colonial Economy

During colonial times, the Brazilian economy supplied Europe, through Portugal, with a variety of raw materials: brazilwood, sugar, tobacco, cotton, gold, diamonds, animal skins, cocoa, vanilla, spices, and medicinal herbs. Industrial activity was forbidden, and all manufactured products needed in the colony came from the mother country.

Brazilwood (Caesalpina echinata) grew abundantly along the Brazilian coast and was shipped to Europe where the textile industry used the wood for making dye. The brazilwood forests were exploited, however, and the best of the coastal woods were soon depleted.

The introduction of sugar plantations in Brazil, especially along the northeastern coast, found environmental conditions favorable. Also, the geographic position of this part of the country, being closer to Europe, conferred to the colony a flourishing trade controlled by Portugal. The shortage of workers was reduced by the massive importation of African slaves.

During the century and a half, the prospertiy of the colonial economy virtually dependend on one single product: sugar cane. Portugal held a virtual monopoly of the product, and two-thirds of Portuguese trade with foreign countries was from Brazil.

After the Dutch were expelled from northeast Brazil, Brazilians used new methods to plant sugar cane in the colonies in Caribbean Islands. The competition brought problems to Brazilian plantations, which began to decline in importance. However, the sugar cane industry represented a decisive factor in the colonization of Brazil. It created large and prosperous land estates and gave rise to the agrarian nobility which formed the historical roots of Brazilian society.

Along with the development of sugar cane plantations, climatic conditions made possible cultivation of cotton and tobacco. Cattle ranches multiplied rapidly. The cattle industry moved farther and farther toward the deep interior, finding favorable habitats for its development and influencing the political penetration and the expansion of the colony's internal market.

By the 1690s, gold was discovered in the state of Minas Gerais by the *Bandeirantes*. The discovery drained people from the coastal zone and from sugar plantations and increased immigration from Portugal. Soon more gold and diamonds were discovered in the states of the Central West region, Goiás and Mato Grosso. Black slaves provided a labor force, although European workers predominated. Located near these deposits were settlements that became towns: Ouro Preto, Sabará, Barbacena, Goiás, and Cuiabá.

The increase of gold and diamond mining, in spite of being controlled by Portugal, brought important changes to Brazil. The colonial capital was transferred from Salvador to Rio de Janeiro in 1763 to facilitate the exporting of all gold to Lisbon. The colony was raised to the category of a Vice Royalty, fine baroque buildings were constructed, churches were decorated with gold leaf. Perhaps more important, artistic and literary cultures began to flourish that led eventually to the first movements seeking independence from Portugal.

In mid 1700, mining activity began to decline, although Brazil was to provide approximately 80 percent of the world's gold supply throughout the eighteenth century.

The colonial economy continued to be dependent on foreign trade. Brazilian exports were derived from agricultural or mineral sources. Portugal taxed both the internal and the external commerce of its colony, did not permit diversification, and disapproved any manufacturing in Brazil, except for sugar processing and ship building.

The economic decline of the colony in the late 1700s increased the discontent already prevalent in Brazil against Portuguese rulers, and the first movements began for political independence.

Movements for Independence

By the end of the eighteenth century, two great historical events took place. The first was the American Revolution, and the second the French Revolution. These events had strong repercussions among Brazilians who wished to alter the political status of their country.

Portugal, retaining a substantial part of the profits of Brazil and maintaining a monopoly of all trade with the colony, created a situation that led to protests and actions by the Brazilians. A feeling of nationhood was created among the colonists. A number of economic conflicts erupted into riots or rebellions in several regions of the colony. The most significant were the *Inconfidência Mineira* (Minas Conspiracy), which took place in 1789 in the state of Minas Gerais, and the Bahia Conspirary in 1798.

In spite of the decline of gold production in Brazil, Portugal continued to require an annual payment of 1,470 kilos in gold. Such measures of taxation provoked protests, and José Joaquim de Silva Xavier or Tiradentes (tooth puller) became the leader of a group that plotted for independence. They wanted to proclaim a Republic, and they called for the abolition of slavery, for the establishment of schools of higher education, and for factories to be built in Minas Gerais. The rebels were quickly repressed and the leader, Tiradentes, was hanged in Rio de Janeiro. He later became the symbol of the fight for national independence.

Another popular movement against the Portuguese took place in the state of Bahia in 1798. The conspirators were soldiers, artisans, mechanics, workmen, and a large number of tailors. They wanted social and political reforms and denounced excessive taxation and oppressive restrictions. This plot was uncovered and the leaders punished.

Brazilian independence, however, was finally achieved as a result of the exile of the royal family to the colony after France invaded Portugal in 1808.

BRAZIL AS A UNITED KINGDOM WITH PORTUGAL AND ALGARVES (1815-1822)

When Portugal was invaded by Napoleon's armies in 1808, Dom João VI (King John VI) made the decision to move the court to Brazil where he could rule the Portuguese empire.

A fleet of 37 ships transferred the court and the government to Brazil, which suddenly found itself transformed into the mother country. The Brazilian people welcomed the royal family, and Dom João's first act in the colony was to open Brazilian ports to all friendly nations, especially Great Britain.

The effects of the decree were immediate, and trade increased substantially. The Brazilian economy boomed, and Great Britain replaced Porgual as Brazil's leading source of commerce for more than a century.

Other important measures brought enormous progress to Brazil, such as the decree revoking all previous prohibitions on manufacturing; the establishment of the Bank of Brazil; and the introduction of new crops, a printing press, a public library, hospitals, medical and law schools, and a military academy.

In 1815, the colony was elevated to the status of a kingdom with Portugal and Algarves, and Brazil achieved the distinction of becoming the first American nation to take part in the Congress of Vienna held that year.

By 1821 the European Portuguese compelled their King to return to Portugal, and Dom João VI with all his family, except his son Dom Pedro, returned to Portugal. While the Brazilians were demanding more rights, the Portuguese government in Lisbon was attempting to reduce Brazil once more to the status of colony.

BRAZIL AS AN EMPIRE (1822-1889)

The Portuguese *Cortes* (or parliament), in trying to limit the freedom of the Brazilians, ordered Dom Pedro to come back to Portugal. This increased the nationalistic feeling of the people to become independent from Portugal.

The renewed struggle for independence was guided by José Bonifacio, who was Minister of the Kingdom, the first Brazilian to hold this post; it was headed by Dom Pedro who represented his father (Dom João IV) in Brazil.

Dom Pedro, on a journey from Santos to São Paulo on September 7, 1822, was informed that letters which had arrived from Portugal had reduced his powers. Angered by the news and accepting the suggestion of his wife Leopoldina and José Bonifácio, Dom Pedro reportedly unsheathed his sword, ripped the Portuguese colors from his uniform, and declared, "Independence or death." He was supported by the patriots, and thereupon, Brazil became independent. Prince Pedro was crowned as the first Emperor of Brazil but continued as the heir to the Portuguese throne. He gave Brazil independence without bloodshed and was very popular among Brazilians.

The fundamental problem of the new nation was not only to assert its independence but to maintain its unity. The fragmentation of the Spanish empire in America demonstrated that language, religion, tradition, and geographic continuity were not sufficient to weld a nation together. The centralized government, the presence of the royal family during 13 years in Rio de Janeiro, and the peaceful transition to Vice Royality, to Kingdom, and to Empire were strong links of Brazilian unity in face of the diversity and regionalisms of the country.

Dom Pedro I made an important contribution to the social and political evolution of the country by promising a constitution that broke the tradition of the Divine Right of the Kings. A constitution was promulgated in 1824 with power divided into four branches: executive, legislative, judicial, and moderative. The moderative branch was controlled by the Emperor. In this arrangement, the Emperor retained the right to overrule the other three branches.

With independence, unity, and a form of government established, the next step was the recognition of the empire by other nations. The first nation to recognize the independence of Brazil was the United States in 1824. Portugal recognized the independence of its former colony in 1825.

In 1826, the death of Dom João VI left the Portuguese throne vacant. Dom Pedro I renounced it in favor of his daughter, Maria II. A civil war erupted in Portugal over the succession. Anti-Portuguese sentiment increased, and because he was seen as too interested in Portugal, Dom Pedro's popularity in Brazil decreased.

In 1831, Dom Pedro I abdicated the throne of Brazil in favor of his son Pedro and returned to Portugal. Because the new Emperor of Brazil was a child, a regency took control of the country until 1840 when Dom Pedro II became the second Emperor of Brazil at the age of 15.

Dom Pedro II was a stern, temperate, and scholarly monarch. He reigned almost half a century (from 1840-1889), and this period was very important in Brazilian history. With Dom Pedro II on the throne, Brazil definitely cut its ties with Portugal, reached cultural maturity, and the unity of the vast country was firmly secured. He encouraged inventors, investors, and builders. During his rule, education was intensely promoted, and health and welfare programs were planned on a national scale. Some internal conflicts were defeated, and economic changes were impressive.

The prosperity of the nation was facilitated with the introduction of coffee that found a natural home in Brazil's highlands with its rich soil, climate, rainfall, and slavery. By 1830, Brazil was producing 40 percent of the world's supply, and by 1870 coffee had become Brazil's most important product. A new market was emerging in the United States which became the major customer for Brazil's export.

The plantation owners began to be very influential in Brazilian politics, and coffee planters maintained the social system initiated by sugar plantation owners. They acted as if slavery would always exist.

In the 1840s objections to the slave trade increased, and Great Britain, for a variety of reasons, applied external pressure to limit and abolish slavery. The termination of the slave trade in 1850 aggravated the labor shortage in Brazil, and in search for a substitute for slaves, Brazil began to promote immigration.

The question of when slavery should be abolished came to the forefront of politics. The Emperor himself opposed slavery. The conservative party hoped to make abolition gradual, but the liberals sought to speed it up. Intellectuals such as Joaquim Nabuco, a lawyer, diplomat, and stateman; the black leader José do Patrocínio, a persuasive journalist; André Rebouças, organizer of abolitionists clubs; and Castro Alves and Gonçalves Dias, distinguished poets, contributed significantly to the abolitionist cause. However, the slave owners continued to oppose it. On May 13, 1888, the parliament passed the Golden Law, and slavery was abolished. The crowds gave their approval in the cities, but in the countryside there was uncertainty.

Dom Pedro II lost the support of the former slave owners as well as that of the Roman Catholic Church. Until 1864, state and church existed in harmony in Brazil. But an encyclical of Pope Pious IX denouncing the Masonic Order was not approved by the Emperor. The Masons of Brazil had a great influence in the movements of independence and of the abolition of slavery. Bishops Vital Maria of Pernambuco and Antonio de Macedo of Pará, both educated in France, defied the crown and ordered the expulsion of Masonic members from religious brotherhoods. As the brotherhoods refused to obey the orders, the bishops suspended their functions. The court found the bishops guilty of disobeying the Emperor and sentenced them to prison.

In addition to losing the support of the rural aristocracy and of the church, Dom Pedro II lost the support of the army.

After five years of war against Paraguay (1865-1870), the army played an important role in politics. The majority of the army officers came from the middle class. This class, residing in urban areas, reflected intellectual changes that occurred in Brazil in the nineteenth century. Among the officers was Marshall Deodoro da Fonseca, who became the first president of the *Clube Militar*, an organization of army officers who advocated an end to the empire.

Under Deodoro's orders, the army surrounded the royal palace, occupied the principal governmental buildings, and a republic was proclaimed without bloodshed.

BRAZIL AS A REPUBLIC (1889-TO THE PRESENT)

The military, under the command of Marshall Deodoro, with the support of the Republican Party, deposed Emperor Dom Pedro II in November 1889. Former supporters of the monarchy, the landlords and the church, did not protest. The masses were indifferent to the events, and another important change in Brazilian history took place in a peaceful way.

Tranquility prevailed throughout the new republic, and Marshall Deodoro was accepted as Chief of State. He decreed a Federal Republic and the separation between church and state and summoned a constitutional assembly.

In 1891, a liberal constitution was adopted providing for a federal, republican, and presidental form of government. It recognized the harmony and independence of the three branches of government: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. During the early years, the republic was identified with the military and with urban, middle class groups. However, the coffee planters, with their wealth and power, controlled state governments in São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro. The absence of big national parties favored the "governor's policy," a system under which the president had the support of the state governors. A new oligarchy, principally from the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro, ruled Brazil for its own benefits until 1930. This period is called the First Republic or Old Republic.

In 1930, a fall in the price of coffee provided an opportunity to overthrow the government by force. The movement was led by Getúlio Vargas and had as its main objective to reform the political customs as well as the voting system.

Getúlio Vargas, who was president for the next 15 years, came to power during a world-wide depression that affected the domestic political scene. The result was a financial crisis, and a constitutional revolution broke out in São Paulo in 1932.

After Vargas' regime had been consolidated in 1934, a new constitution was introduced which greatly widened the franchise and gave the vote to women. However, Vargas became a dictator in 1937, dissolved congress, and proclaimed a so-called New State. The Vargas regime favored urban workers and introduced such reforms as retirement and pension plans, a minimum wage, annual vacations, maternal benefits, child care, and job security.

As a result of Brazil's participation in World War II on the side of the Allies, democracy was restored in 1945 when the dictatorship was overthrown by the military.

Elections took place in the same year, and General Eurico Gaspar Dutra was chosen. A new democratic constitution was approved in 1946 with

progressive measures in the field of social welfare and trade unions. The new constitution separated the three branches of government ensuring each its independence. The Federal Supreme Court had jurisdiction to rule on the constitutionality of all the federal, state, and local legislation.

Brazil experienced five years of economic expansion with President Juscelino Kubitscheck (1956-1961), the founder of Brasília. An intense industrialization altered the basic structure of the economy by reducing the nation's dependence on exports and creating heavy primary industries. During the 1950s, the rate of Brazilian economic growth was three times that of the rest of Latin America. The number of industrial plants grew by 33 percent and the labor force by 40 percent. The supply and demand for energy caused gigantic hydroelectric projects to be constructed. A national automotive industry was created. To connect the new capital, Brasília, with the rest of the country, an ambitious program of new roads was developed. However, these programs were expensive, and inflation spiraled upward.

During President João Goulart's term (1961-1964), Brazil's political scene was characterized by a state of unrest both in domestic and external affairs. After three years, the country was on the verge of political and financial chaos. The armed forces, cheered on by the elite and the middle class, removed Goulart from office in April 1964. The military reduced the powers of the Congress and the courts and punished political adversaries. Also, they ended the direct election of high officials by voters and substituted an electoral college process. A new president was elected by Congress.

Marshall Castelo Branco (1964-1967) tried to stabilize the country's political and economic situation. He struggled to put an end to corruption in government and to stem the tide of inflation. The cost of living continued to rise, and wages failed to keep pace with prices. The currency, the *cruzeiro* went down in value. During the first two years after the coup, the economy staggered and several fiscal policies were tried. By the end of Branco's administration, the economy showed signs of recovering, and the year of 1967 ended with a trade balance of $250 million to Brazil's favor with coffee accounting for 44 percent of Brazil's exports.

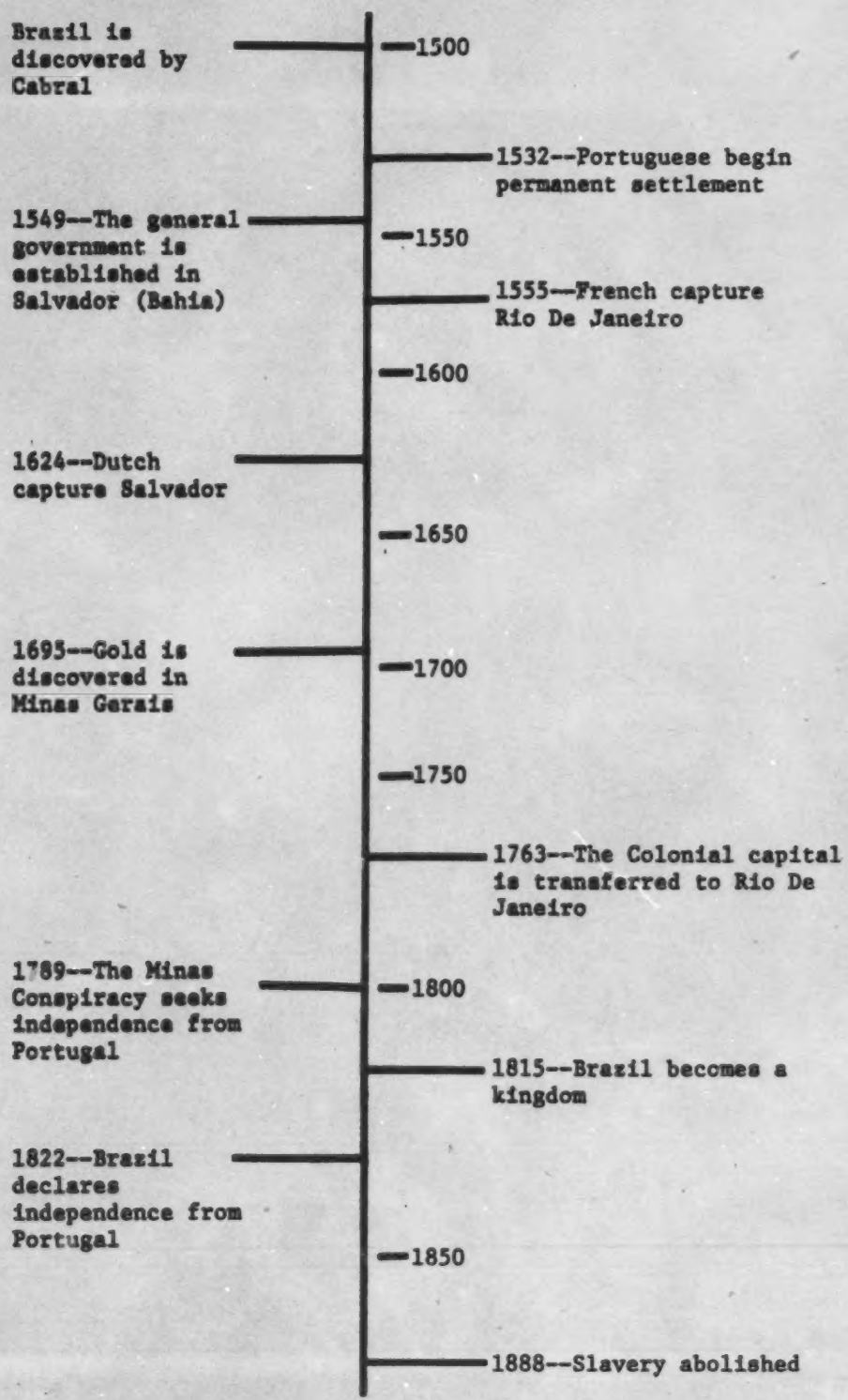
A new constitution was promulgated in 1967. It concentrated power in the hands of a president chosen indirectly by an electoral college made up of members of Congress and delegates from state legislatures. A two-party system replaced the traditional multiparty system. This constitution, the sixth since independence, was substantially modified as a result of constitutional amendments, which gave the president extraordinary power, such as the closing of Congress or the depriving of a citizen of political rights.

Marshall Costa e Silva, who succeeded Marshall Branco, contracted a serious illness and was unable to continue the office. His duties were assumed by the ministers of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force

which led to the election by the Congress of General Emílio Médici. His term (1969-1974) was marked by a continuous growth of the Gross National Product, reorganization of the state's inefficient bureaucracy, and attraction of large amounts of foreign investment capital.

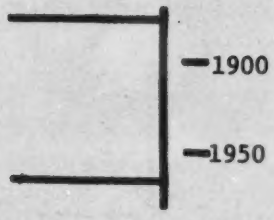
In 1974, General Ernesto Geisel was elected president. Partially as a result of the high prices of oil, inflation had shot up to over 40 percent and the growth rate of the GNP dropped to about 5 percent. Despite the slowing down of the economic growth, an industrial and agricultural expansion took place. General Geisel was succeeded in 1979 by General João Baptista Figueiredo who will rule the country until 1984.

BRAZILIAN HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



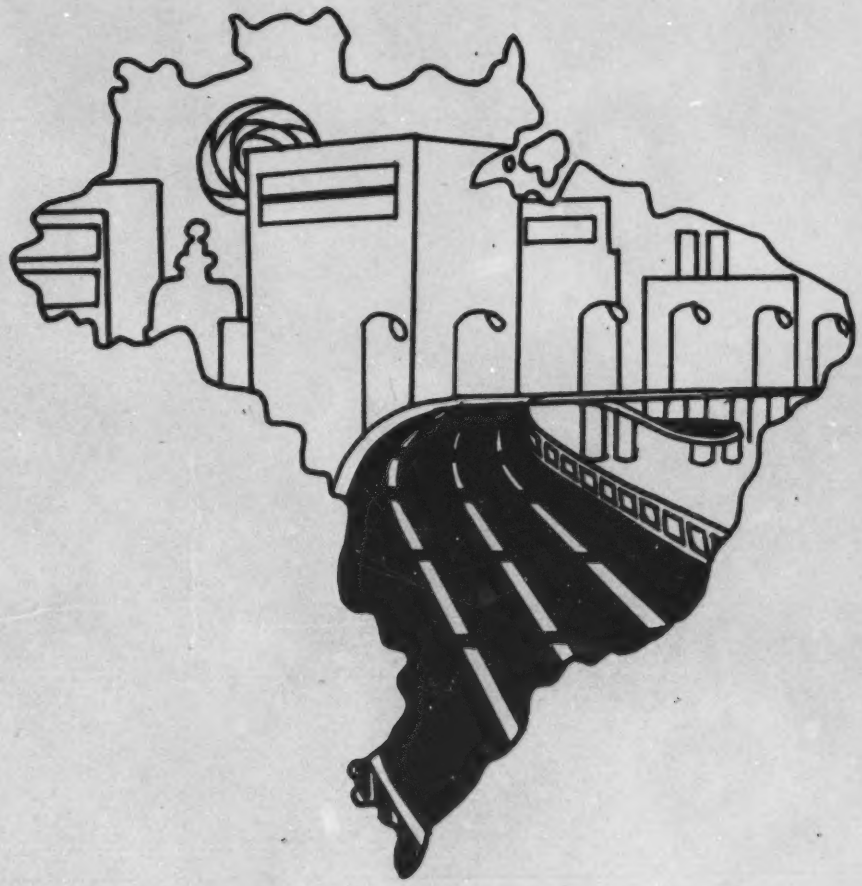
1889--Brazil becomes a Republic

1960--Brasília becomes new capital of Brazil



UNIT III

BRAZIL:
A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING NATION



RECENT ECONOMIC CHANGES

A new stage in the Brazilian economy began in the 1950s with programs aimed at local and regional development. Great investments were made in agriculture, industries, hydroelectric plants, exploration of untapped natural resources, and public facilities.

During the period from 1955 to 1975, the Gross National Product grew at an average annual rate of 8 percent, corresponding to an increase of about 5 percent per capita. The inflation rate, which was over 100 percent in 1964, was reduced to 17 percent in 1973, and there was an equilibrium in the foreign debt. However, with the energy crisis in 1973, Brazil had to pay higher costs for 80 percent of its oil needs. This heavy drain of foreign exchange earnings again brought external imbalances and climbing prices in the home market.

As a result of the international oil crisis, the Gross National Product (GNP), which from 1970 to 1973 had grown more than 10 percent a year, decreased to about 5 percent in the following years; the inflation rate leaped upward more than 40 percent, surpassing the most pessimistic estimates; and the foreign debt reached $40 billion in 1978--three times more than earnings of exports in the same year.

Austerity measures were put into effect by the government to counter the unfavorable decrease of GNP and to face the continued high level of costly oil imports. The most important measures were:

- the diversification of foreign trade with an increasing participation of manufactured goods
- the gradual devaluation of the national currency to benefit the exports
- the control of salary increases
- installation of anti-inflation programs
- the maintenance of a mechanism called monetary correction to update the values of debts

The long-range objective was to obtain at least an equilibrium in the foreign trade and to reduce the foreign debt. The short range goal was to expand the domestic market (the population estimate for the year 2000 is 205,000,000 inhabitants) and to increase purchasing power to raise the standard of living.

To balance foreign exchange, there is a concentration on the development of certain basic sectors of the economy including capital goods, petrochemicals, electronics, and steel plants. Programs to achieve self-sufficience in fertilizers, paper, and cellulose are also under way. Large investments are being made to discover new sources of energy and to build new hydroelectric plants.

In agriculture, which provides 95 percent of the nation's food needs, new methods of crop cultivation are being introduced and production has become considerably diversified. Coffee no longer represents the first place in export lists and ranks behind soybeans, sugar cane, beef, rice, and maize.

In the industrial field, Brazil is the most industrial country in Latin America. Its industrial sectors include metallurgy, steel, chemicals, drinks, foodstuffs, textiles, and vehicles. Today, production of vehicles is over 1,000,000 a year. Some of the vehicles are exported to markets in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. The food industry is developing new technologies. In mining, the largest reservoirs are iron ore, manganese, bauxite, nickle, lead, copper, and gold.

Economic development, however, does not extend throughout the country. On the contrary, it is concentrated mostly in the Southeast region. Also, there are marked social divisions among classes as well as among the regions.

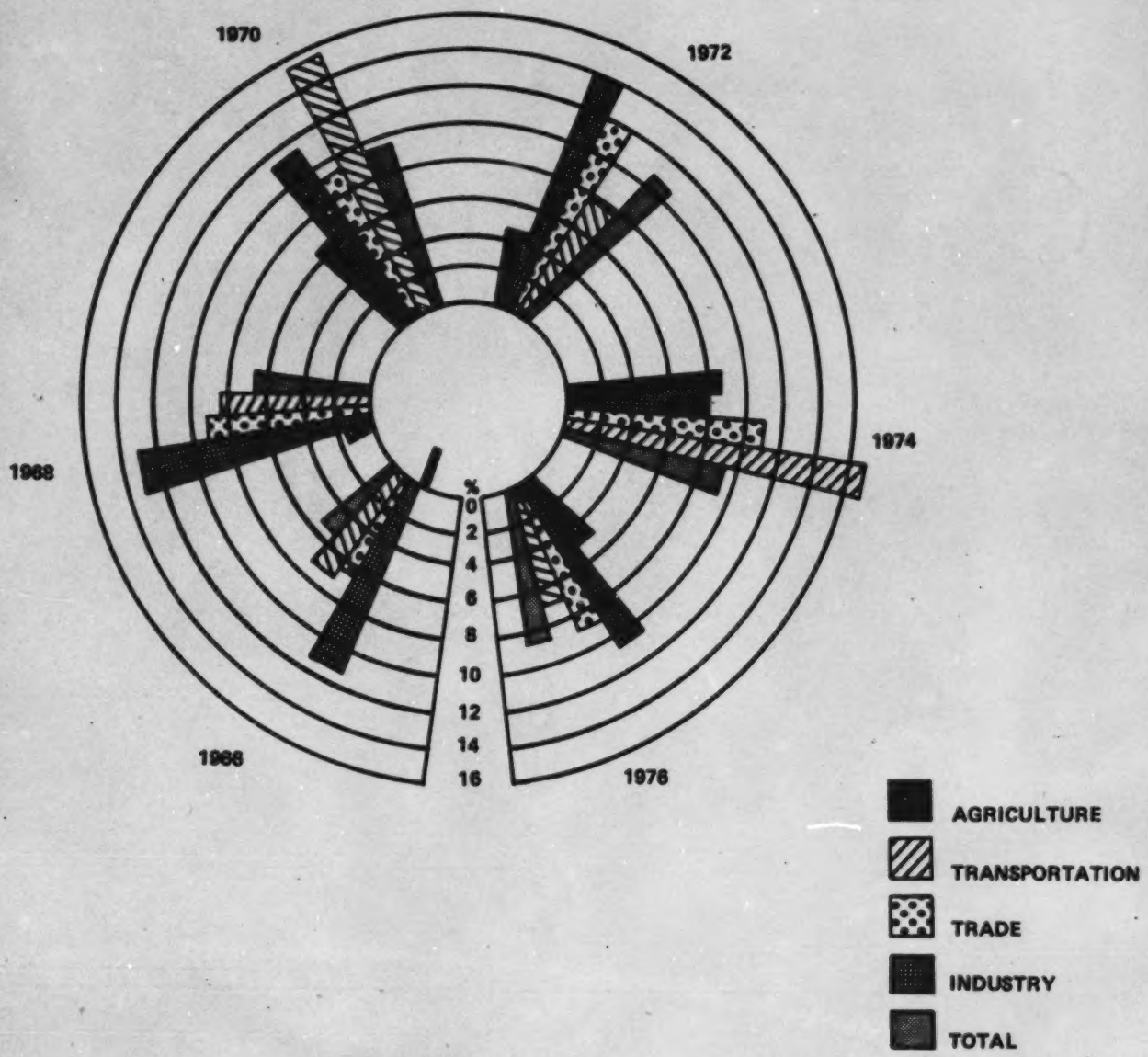
Several structural and situational factors have played a part in creating the regional differences. The most important of these factors has been the industrial progress in the Southeast region, where almost half of the Brazilian population is concentrated. This progress drains the resources from the other four Brazilian political regions. This cumulative process makes the economic development of the country difficult, and limits the expansion of the industry itself by the low per capita income of the domestic market.

To cope with the situation, the government and private enterprises are making many attempts to strengthen regional economies. Some governmental agencies such as *SUDENE* (Superintendency for the Development of the Northeast), *SUDAM* (Superintendency for the Development of the *Amazônia)*, and *SUDECO* (Superintendency for the Development of the Central West) are the most important in decreasing the wide gaps that still exist between the regions. Priorities and reappraising of programs, both public and private, are being made to inject more capital into strategic fields and to reach an economic integration of the country.

These economic strategies are changing Brazil from an underdeveloped to a developed country. The experience gained has made possible the creation of a new basis for planning and carrying out the development programs. This is especially true with respect to transportation, electric energy, and social development in such areas as education, health, and housing.

A macro-analysis of Brazilian economy reveals that, in the 1970s, in spite of all the difficulties created by the energy crisis in 1973 and the regional disparities, the country had a balance of favorable growth. In 1978, the production of goods and services (GNP), according to data from Banco do Brasil, was estimated at $165 billion which gave a GNP per capita of about $1,400, three times more than in 1971. Mechanization is putting new productivity into agriculture. There is a growing strength in industrial activities, finance companies, trade, transportation, and general services.

Fig. 20 – GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT GROWTH



POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Between 1964 and 1978, Brazil had an authoritarian regime supported by a series of constitutional ammendments that gave unlimited powers to the president. The press was subjected to censorship, some civil rights were suspended, and opposition members were arrested. But in January 1979, these amendments and several other exceptional rules were repealed, and a giant step toward liberalization occurred. Brazilians seem to be exercising some democratic practices with the restitution of individual rights and guarantees.

According to the Constitution of 1967, Brazil is a Federative Republic constituted on a representative basis by the indissoluble union of the 22 states, four territories, and the Federal District. The traditional structure of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers was retained.

The legislative power is exercised by Congress, which consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Federal Senate. The Chamber of Deputies is composed of representatives who are elected for a period of four years chosen on a system or proportional representation by the states, the territories, and the Federal District. The Chamber of Deputies has, among its duties, the responsibility to declare any accusations brought against the president or ministries of state valid, to examine the accounts of the president, and to propose bills. The Federal Senate is made up of the representatives of the states elected on a majority basis. Each state elects three senators for a period of eight years. Every four years one-third of the membership must stand for election. Among other privileges, the Federal Senate has the right to judge the president of the Republic and ministries of state for crimes of which they may be accused; to approve selection of magistrates, ministers of the Audit Court, and the governor of the Federal District; and to appoint head of permanent diplomatic missions.

Each state in Brazil has its own laws and constitutions within the framework of the federal constitution, and the federal government has the right to intervene on specific matters. The state assemblies are elected by popular vote, and the assemblies, in turn, elect the state governors. All the states and the territories are subdivided into municipalities and these, in turn, into districts.

The municipalities are administrative subdivisions. It is their responsibility to elect their governmental bodies, make laws, collect taxes, and organize and administer municipal services. The municipal council has legislative functions and supervises the municipality. The executive functions are carried out by the mayor (*prefeito*), who is in charge of the municipality's departments and services.

A number of municipalities, for reasons connected with national security, are restricted in their autonomy, their mayors being appointed by the governors of the states instead of being elected.

SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Brazil's dramatic economic growth in recent years has not yet been accompanied by an equitable amount of benefits for its people. A combination of demographic and economic factors contribute to the fact that the standard of living for the majority of the people is still low.

The decline of the death rate and a lower infant mortality rate has increased the life expectancy of Brazilians (up to 62 years in 1974) as well as maintaining a high annual growth rate. This rapid increase places a tremendous strain on social services and jobs. In addition, with half of the inhabitants under 20 years of age, providing schools is an expensive service.

In 1970, over 44 percent of the labor force of about 30,000,000 still depended on such occupations as agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing. About 18 percent of the workforce was in the manufacturing sector. Two-thirds of this 18 percent was concentrated in the state of São Paulo. Services, trade, public administration, and defense account for about 38 percent of the workforce.

These figures are changing as a result of current processes of industrialization and urbanization that is taking place in the country. Streams of migrants are leaving rural areas in search of better job opportunities in large cities. A chain of new problems is presented by new demands in housing, education, health and sanitary services, mass transportation, and employment particularly in cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Despite all these problems, progress is being made. Education services are being expanded; medical and sanitary facilities are more available; and family unit housing as well as residential blocks are being built to transfer slum dwellers to places with more satisfactory hygiene conditions.

Present labor legislation includes new benefits for both urban and rural workers. The minimum wage for unskilled workers is increased annually according to inflation rates. The social security system has been expanded each year to incorporate more workers.

New employee funds were created by the government to promote welfare. The Employment Guarantee Fund *(FGTS)* gives monetary compensation according to the number of years worked. The Program of Social Integration *(PIS/PASEP)* is designed to encourage individual savings, improve income distribution, and supply capital for business enterprises. The Rural Workers Association and Provident Fund *(FUNRURAL)* extends social security to workers in rural areas.

The National Development Plan concentrates heavily on fulfilling the social and material needs of a majority of Brazilians. Extensive programs are being put into effect to reduce the gap between the rich

and poor. Also, the Plan carries out extensive regional development projects, gives new emphasis in the internal market, and tries to minimize the adverse effects of the world energy crisis on the Brazilian economy.

In the light of the new economic order, social development strategies are being implemented to ensure a substantial increase of real income to Brazilians, to expand mass consumption by means of the growth process itself, and to implement new social achievements.

A CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES

Brazilians trace their cultural heritage to European colonists: Portuguese; Dutch; French; Indians, who were Brazil's first residents; Africans, who were brought in to work the plantations; and later, thousands of people from Italy, Spain, Germany, Poland, Russia, Japan, Syria, and Lebanon. Although each of these groups has contributed in some way to the character of the country, Brazil has set a cultural unity that is considered remarkable in the contemporary world. The social integration of this racially-mixed society constitutes an example of ethnic and cultural pluralism.

The following interpretative summary, in spite of omitting some historical events, emphasizes cultural achievements.

Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting

While the colonial architecture had influence from Europe, especially from Portugal, contemporary architecture in Brazil has evolved its own styles under the influence of the tropical environment. It represents some of the most attractive architecture in the world. Urban expansion in the last 30 years has created opportunities for the development of Brazilian architecture, a reflection of artistic expression and social and functional needs.

Brasília, the federal capital, is undoubtedly the most famous example of modern architecture in Brazil. It has attracted world-wide attention for its particular style of city planning and architecture adapted to tropical conditions of sunshine and heavy rainfall, to prevailing social conditions, and to the cultural background. Oscar Niemeyer is the Brazilian architect associated with the creation of new art form in the city. He is well known throughout the world for projects such as the United Nations building, universities in Algeria, and buildings in France and Italy.

Other examples of new Brazilian architecture are the Culture Palace, Modern Art Museum, and International Airport in Rio de Janeiro; the Pampulha Church in Belo Horizonte; and the Modern Art Museum in São Paulo. These buildings have acquired international reputation because they balance concrete and glass structures with surrounding gardens and parks.

Brazilian sculpture in colonial times had an outstanding artist in Antonio Francisco Lisboa (1730-1840) better known as the *Aleijadinho* (the Little Cripple). The son of a black slave and a Portuguese stonemason, he lost his hands from leprosy, and worked with chisel and mallet strapped to his wrists. He gave to his native state, Minas Gerais, remarkable works of art such as elaborate portals, carved pulpits, and designs for churches. His monumental statues in soapstone (or steatite) of the Twelve Prophets stand impressively in the town of Congonhas do Campo.

In recent years, the best known Brazilian sculptures have been Maria Martins, Mario Cravo, Bruno Giorgi, and Sérgio Camargo.

The first remarkable Brazilian painter was a former slave, Manuel de Cunha, whose paintings characterized the period before 1800. An important event in the country's artistic development took place in 1816 when a French art mission came to Brazil. The paintings of the French Debret, Lebreton, and Taunay formed the nucleus of the Fine Arts Museum. These painters influenced Brazilian artists, among them Pedro Américo and Victor Meirelles who became famous for their vast canvases that depict Brazilian historic events.

However, the modern style in Brazilian painting began in the 1920s with the Modern Art Week in São Paulo, a movement that had as major objectives the emancipation from old European patterns and the discovery of native artistic themes. Segal, a Russian by birth, was the first to start expressing Brazilian moods and themes. He was followed by Guinard, Camargo, Djanira, Di Cavalcanti, and Portinari, Brazil's best known painter internationally. Portinari's works translate the life of the ordinary people into dramatic pictures. His mural, War and Peace, decorates the United Nations building in New York.

Education

The Brazilian Constitution states that everybody has the right to a fundamental education. However, in a huge country like Brazil where over 50 percent of the population is under 20 years of age, it is a challenge to accomplish this legal right. Many modern problems are a legacy from the past when educational practices reflected a subsistence economy that did not require much education. A compulsory education act, although passed at the end of the nineteenth century, was not properly implemented before 1930. Higher education was forbidden in Brazil until the arrival of the royal family in 1808. The first university was not created until 1920. For many years, education was neglected. Illiteracy is still a problem that affects over 20 percent of the population.

A major effort to improve education has been made since the early 1970s. A federal law was passed in 1971 that increased schooling from four to eight years and made it compulsory for children between seven and 14 years of age. This level, called first grade schooling, is followed by a three-year secondary school which is voluntary. The promotion to higher education is made by national examinations called *vestibulares*. There is a critical overcrowding in all levels of schooling, especially in large cities. Preschool enrollment in 1974 was about 530,000 or less than 5 percent of the age group. The first grade schooling that had an enrollment of about 11,000,000 in 1963 jumped to about 19,000,000 in 1974. In the same year, there were about 1,700,000 students in secondary schools and over 1,000,000 in higher education.

Despite these figures, there still are children who never have attended school. Others in large cities, attend half time in shifts, with two or three groups of students being taught in the same building each day. While about 90 percent of the first level schooling is operated by states and municipalities, the secondary schools are mostly private institutions. In addition to academic courses, this level of schooling offers vocational training. After finishing this level, the students are submitted to national examinations before entering colleges or universities.

The increasing demand for higher education in Brazil reflects social pressure resulting from the industrial development that is taking place in the country. In 1971, there were about 500,000 college students. Three years later, there were about 1,000,000 students enrolled in 64 universities, the majority being public, and in about 800 colleges, the majority being private. These figures provide a dramatic example of the desire of Brazilians for more opportunities in the labor market. Each year more and more women are going to college. The majority of the courses offered by the institutions in higher education in the area of humanities: administration, business, commerce, economics, law, and teacher training. The number of courses in the areas of health and technology have not expanded at the same rate as humanities courses, and the annual examinations or *vestibulares* for those kinds of courses are becoming more difficult each year. Graduate level courses had only about 17,000 students in 1974. The Armed Forces also maintained schools that provide learning opportunities for men in compulsory military service. These schools range from elementary levels to academies for the instruction of officers.

The general guidelines on school policy are established by the federal government. However, since 1971, with the modification of educational legislation, the states and municipalities are sharing more in the control of local education. In 1973, the federal quota in financing education throughout Brazil was 6.3 percent of the national budget. Among the most urgent educational problems are:

- high dropout rate
- age gaps in schools that allow the majority of children to begin school after the mandatory age of seven and finish the first grade schooling older than 14 years of age
- large numbers of unqualified teachers who receive low salaries
- large numbers of adult students demanding more places in higher education
- illiteracy in over 20 percent of adult population
- the increasing demand for more and better opportunities for schooling at all levels with a limited amount of funds, buildings, and educators to meet this demand

Literature

Brazilian literature, until the beginning of the twentieth century made little international impact. The problem was mainly the language. However, Portuguese is now the sixth idiom in the world, spoken by over 150,000,000 persons in Brazil, Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, and other former Portuguese colonies in Africa and Asia. The expansion of the Portuguese-speaking people increased the literary output, and Brazilians now account for about half of the titles and books published in Latin America.

There are four main periods in Brazil's literary development that are roughly related to different historical stages:

- the Colonial Period which lasted until Independence (1822)
- the Romantic Period which characterized the 57 years of the Empire
- the Post Romantic Period in the first decades of the Republic
- the Modernist Period that began after the famous Modern Art Week held in São Paulo in 1922

The last period brought new ideas, and a truly national style began to emerge in Brazil. It represented a wave of artistic innovation throughout the country, reflecting varied racial and cultural origins. It was concerned with the daily life and realities confronting Brazilians. The most famous writers of the period were: Mário de Andrade, with *Macunaíma,* and Manuel Bandeira. Their works transmitted the melancholy and tragic apathy of the life of the common person of the middle class. Other well-known writers were:

- José Lins do Rego who wrote about Northeast regional themes
- Graciliano Ramos who explored social problems in famous books like *São Bernardo* and *Vidas Secas*
- João Guimaraes Rosa who linked old Portuguese, still spoken along the São Francisco River, with new concepts and special meanings in the book *Sagarana*
- Erico Verissimo who has significant contributions in the books *O Tempo e o Vento, Senhor Embaixador,* and *Incidente em Antares*

The greatest living Brazilian writers are:

- Gilberto Freyre, a pioneer of the new school of sociologists in the country, who wrote *Casa Grande & Senzala (The Masters and the Slaves)* and *Sobrados e Mocambos (The Mansions and the Shanties)* that feature social themes

- Rachel de Queiróz, the first female member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, who wrote *O Quinze*

- Carlos Drumond de Andrade, one of the most famous poets

- Jorge Amado, who is the Brazilian writer best known internationally. His works have been translated into 33 languages and reflect modern Brazilian society and problems. Among the most translated are the books *Gabriela, Cravo, e Canela (Gabriela, Clove, and Cinnamon)*, and *Dona Flor e seus dois Maridos (Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands)*,

Mass Media

In colonial times, the Portuguese rulers banned printing in Brazil. Only in the beginning of the nineteenth century was the first Brazilian newspaper published. When the royal family came to Brazil, it founded the first printing house. After independence (1822), there were about 20 newspapers printed in Brazil. Today all large cities have four or more daily newspapers. According to data for 1974, there were 1,151 newspapers in existence. The best known are: *O Estado de São Paulo, Jornal do Brasil, O Globo,* and *Diário de Pernambuco*. A few newspapers are published in foreign languages such as the Brazil Herald, the Brazil Export and the *São Paulo Shimbun*. Magazines and other specialized publications amounted to 1,098 titles in 1974. The leading magazines are *Manchete, Visão,* and *Isto E*.

Radio stations were established in Rio de Janeiro in the 1920s; and by 1974, there were 977 stations in Brazil. The official radio is *Rádio Nacional* which broadcasts from Brasília in several languages, including English. Television was launched in Rio de Janeiro in the 1950s; and in 1973, color television was introduced. There were 75 television stations throughout Brazil in 1974 with two large networks. The system is connected with the rest of the world by satellite. There are radio and television educational programs that reach the deep interior of the country.

The first Brazilian full-length films were made in the beginning of this century. However, significant progress was experienced only in the 1950s with the opening of Vera Cruz Studios in São Paulo. The most famous film of the period was *O Cangaçeiro,* which won a prize in the Cannes Film Festival. The second Brazilian film to reach an international reputation was *O Pagador de Promessas*. It won the prized Gold Palm in Cannes in 1962. Other international prizes have been won in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Italy by films such as *Vidas Secas* (Barren Lands), based on Graciliano Ramos' novel and directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos; *Deus e o Diabo no Terra do Sol* (God and the Devil in the Land of the Sun) by Glauber Rocha; *Macunaíma,* a social satire by Joaquim Pedro de Andrade.

Brazil has no great theatrical tradition, and modern plays began only in the 1940s with the playwright Nelson Rodrigues. More recently, Ariano Suassuna became famous in dramatizing folkloric themes like *Auto da Compadecida* (Trial of the Rogue); Chico Buarque de Hollanda with *Gota d'Agua;* and the poet João Cabral de Mello Neto with the international prize winner *Morte e Vida Severina.*

Music

Brazil is best known for the rhythms of the samba and bossa nova; however, the composer Villa-Lobos gave international representation to Brazilian classical music.

Brazilian popular music is a reflection of the influence of Indian, white, and black elements. The Indian played music in connection with warfare, hunting, and fishing. The Portuguese brought to Brazil their songs, dances, and instruments. Jesuit priests used music in their religious work with Indians. The black influence came with the slaves from Africa with their wind and percussion instruments.

Music schools existed in Brazil in the early seventeenth century and were oriented to religion which was intensified by the arrival of the royal family in 1808. The best-known Brazilian composer at the time was Friar José Maurício, author of a famous Requiem Mass in B flat and some 400 other compositions.

During the last century, a great Brazilian composer was Carlos Gomes, who composed *O Guarani* and other famous operas. After the fall of the monarchy in 1889, Alberto Nepomuceno and Francisco Manuel attempted to introduce Brazilian themes into their work, while Leopoldo Miguez and Francisco Braga adhered to the conventional European style.

As with sculpture, painting, and literature, the Modern Art Week in 1922 revolutionized Brazilian music. This modernistic and nationalistic movement produced a number of new composers as well as new compositions. Villa-Lobos (1887-1956) was the leader of the revolution in the musical field and composed more than 1,700 works ranging from simple folk melodies for piano to compositions for orchestra. His most notable work is *Bachianas Brasileiras,* a sophisticated treatment of popular music.

The most popular forms of Brazilian music are the *modinha, maxixe, choro, frevo, samba,* and *bossa nova.* They are in a constant stage of evolution, and the *marcha, frevo,* and *samba* are products of the Carnival. During Carnival time, four days prior to Ash Wednesday, the samba beat seems to be everywhere. The streets become an outdoor, public dance floor, especially in the cities of Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Recife.

The samba performed today was born in the slums of Rio de Janeiro and is the national music. Its black roots date from colonial times when the slaves introduced their rhythms and instruments. In 1950, this kind

of music was made famous by Samba Schools (samba teams). Some Samba Schools have about 3,000 dancers at the annual Carnival where there are competitions for the best Samba School of the year. The competition is increasing, and each year there are improvements in costumes, allegories, and samba plots. They attract the attention of the Brazilian as well as the tourist.

In recent years a more sophisticated form of samba known as *bossa nova* gained world-wide attention. It was also born in Rio de Janeiro; however, in the South Zone of the city (Copacabana), middle class youngsters began a new music practice of instrumental composition modeled on jazz. In the 1960s, João Gilberto taped his first record called *Chega de Saudade* and opened new ways to Brazilian popular music.

Religion

Among the objectives of the Portuguese explorers and settlers in their world wide expansion in the sixteenth century was the spreading of Roman Catholicism. They brought Catholic missionaries to convert Indians and black slaves and to provide for the spiritual well-being of colonists. A glance at a Brazilian map shows that many cities, towns, and geographical points bear saints' names or names of other religious origin.

During colonial and empire times, the Catholic church was established and supported by the state. The government appointed candidates to church positions and gave appropriations to religious institutions. Catholic schools were the only schools provided to the people. Priests held high posts in public administration. In every city and village of Brazil, the church was generally the largest and most impressive building, especially in the states of Minas Gerais, Bahia, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro.

With the proclamation of the Republic in 1889, the church was separated from the state, and instruction in the public schools was made secular. The present constitution guarantees freedom of religion and worship to all forms of faith.

According to the latest census (1970), about 90 percent of the Brazilian population is at least nominally Roman Catholic, the largest Catholic population of any country in the world. However, Catholicism in Brazil is not the same as Catholicism in Europe or even in other Latin American countries. It appears to be more social than religious, and many of those who call themselves Catholics are also practicing spiritualists. In recent years, there has been a rapid expansion of spiritualism largely explained by its efforts to solve social problems by providing institutional assistance.

The best estimates of the total number of spiritualists in the country vary from 5,000,000 to 20,000,000. This makes Brazil the largest stronghold of spiritualism in the world as well as the largest Catholic nation. Scientific spiritualism is cultivated by middle class intellectuals and is concerned with metaphysical phenomena. Other persons are followers

of Alan Kardec, who organized spiritualism in Europe in the nineteenth century. Also, there are those who follow the "low spiritualism" or *umbanda* practiced by lower classes, including many blacks.

The *umbandistas* are the people who practice the biggest and fastest growing spiritualist cult in Rio de Janeiro called *umbanda* or *macumba*. This is the result of a three-way combination of African, Catholic, and spiritualistic elements in a loosely-knit body of doctrine that makes allowance for unlimited local and regional variances. In Bahia, this cult is called *candomblé* and in Pernambuco, *xangô*. There is no doctrinal or ritual unity, but all cults rest on the belief that people can make direct contact with spirits living in some other world. Through a medium, the members of the congregation can ask the spirit's help in solving their problems. All sorts of questions can be made during the sessions: how to get a job or promotion, cure an illness, regain a lost love, arrange a marriage, and so on. The rituals of these cults include dancing and singing accompanied by drums. They take place in the *terreiros* where African gods and godesses, Indian *caboclos*, and Christian saints are worshiped together at the same altars.

Protestant denominations were organized into nationwide churches with theological schools in the early nineteenth century. According to the census of 1880, there were 43,743 Protestants; in 1970, the number was 4,817,728 with about 29,000 churches located primarily in the Southeast and Southern regions.

The most common denominations are Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Assembly of God.

Both Catholic and Protestant religions provide a large number of social services including education. Church schools, ranging from elementary to university levels, are famous for their high level of teaching.

Other forms of religion most commonly practiced in Brazil are Judaism, Buddhism, and Orthodox ritualism.

Sports

It was only during this century that organized sports were introduced into Brazil. Prior to this era, there were irregular competitions in rowing, swimming, horse racing, boat racing, and sailing reggatas.

Soccer (called *futebol* in Brazil) was brought to the country by a touring British exhibition team early in the century. This sport became a national obsession and pastime. It is played everywhere: on the beaches and in the parks, playgrounds, and fields. The most famous soccer clubs are América, Botafoga, Flamengo, Fluminense (in Rio de Janeiro); Santos, São Paulo, and Corinthias (in São Paulo); International (in Porto Alegre); and Atlétiço (in Belo Horizonte). Each Brazilian state has its soccer association and holds an annual cup competition with the best teams competing for the national championship. Presently there are about 20,000 registered soccer teams, and Brazilians have made

the sport their own. The national team participated in all the finals of the world soccer championships and won the world cup in 1958, 1962, and 1970. This record has not been surpassed by any other country.

Rio de Janeiro is the sports capital of Brazil, with the headquarters of the most important sports organizations in the country. They represent all kinds of sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, horse racing, shooting, hunting, boxing, fencing, sailing, chess, rowing, and swimming. In Rio is located the largest soccer stadium in the world, the Maracanã, with a seating capacity of 200,000.

Other large cities, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Recife, and Porto Alegre, have developed sports that attracted large crowds, especially to soccer stadiums.

The best-known Brazilian sports personalities are Pelé, soccer; Fittipald, automobile racing; Nelson Pessoa, horse jumping; Elder Jofre, boxing; and Maria Bueno, tennis, winner of four doubles and three singles championships at Wimbledon. They are considered national heroes.

APPENDIX

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS
CONSIDERED INTERNATIONAL OR NATIONAL EVENTS

Month	Day Holiday	Day Festival	Characteristics
January	1		. NEW YEAR'S DAY
		7-16	. OUR LORD OF BONFIM - Held in Salvador (Bahia). Great devotions are paid to Our Lord of Bonfim and to the deity *Oxalá*, considered god of creation in *Candomblé* cult.
			. SAINT SEBASTIAN - Held especially in Rio de Janeiro.
February	*		. CARNIVAL (Three days prior to Ash Wednesday) - From small towns to large cities, the whole of Brazil vibrates with Carnival. In Rio de Janeiro, the climax of the festival is the Samba School Parade, considered the most beautiful show in the world; in Salvador, there are the *Trios Elétricos* with the exciting sounds of Brazilian rhythms; and in Recife, there is a broad variety of dances like *frevo*, *maracatu*, and *samba*.
March		15-31	. INTERNATIONAL COWBOY FESTIVAL - Held in Uruguaiana (RIO GRANDE do SUL). Revolves around the *gaucho*, the man of the pampas. Cowboys from Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay take part in lasooing, bucking bronco, and roundup competitions.
April	*		. GOOD FRIDAY - Celebrated throughout the country especially in MINAS GERAIS and PERNAMBUCO. Ceremonies recall the old colonial days. In Pernambuco, there is the Passion Drama in settings resembling the Holy Land.
		13-19	. WEEK OF THE INDIAN - Programs related to Brazilian Indians
	21		. MINAS CONSPIRACY - Various civic ceremonies are held throughout the country to commemorate the movement for independence from Portugal in 1798.
		21	. ANNIVERSARY OF BRASILIA - Military and student parades are held in the Federal District as well as sports competition, cultural events, and art exhibitions.
May	1		. LABOR DAY
		13	. SLAVERY ABOLITION - Commemorations recall the day in 1888 slavery was abolished in Brazil.
		*	. BLACK CULTURE FORTNIGHT - Presentations of Afro-Brazilian music, dances, and typical food, highlights of black contributions in the cultural evolution of the country.

* Not a fixed date

Month	Day Holiday	Festival	Characteristics
June		1-29	. SAINT JOHN and SAINT PETER's FESTIVALS - Goes back to the first days of colonization. In decorated surroundings, the bonfire burns and typical dishes are served with special drinks. Parties with quadrille dance and fire works are held.
	*		. CORPUS CHRIST - Religious ceremonies are celebrated all over the country.
July		15-30	. WINTER FESTIVAL - In Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte and Ouro Preto), where theatre performances, dancing, music, and exhibitions of paintings and handcrafts are held.
August		1-31	. FOLKLORE MONTH - Held all over the country with a view to underline the importance of the folklore in the formation of the Brazilian culture.
		*	. *GRANDE PREMIO BRASIL* - Sweepstake, the top event in Brazil's horse racing season, held in Rio de Janeiro.
		19-25	. ARMY WEEK - Various civic ceremonies, sports events, visits to Army headquarters are held throughout the country.
September	7		. INDEPENDENCE DAY - The Independence of Brazil is commemorated with civic and cultural ceremonies as well as military and student parades throughout the country.
		27	. SAINT COSME AND DAMIEN'S FESTIVAL - In honor of these twin saints, sweets and cookies are distributed to the children for fulfillment of vows.
		*	. *FEIRA DA PROVIDENCIA* - Held in Rio de Janeiro during three days. It is the most important charity fair with the participation of all the Brazilian states as well as foreign embassies.
October		7-30	. NATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL - Provides children shows, competitions, raffles.
		8-23	. OUR LADY OF NAZARETH - One of the most important religious festivals of northern Brazil, offering to thousands of people who come from all over the country folk entertainments, typical foods, and religious ceremonies.
		12	. OUR LADY OF APARECIDA - Festival dedicated to the patron saint of Brazil.
November	2		. ALL SOULS' DAY
	15		. PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC - Civic ceremonies mark the date the Republic was established.

* Not a fixed date

Month	Day Holiday Festival	Characteristics
December	25	. CHRISTMAS - Celebrated throughout the country. Midnight masses are provided in all Catholic churches, after which members of the family reunite at home to exchange traditional Christmas gifts as well as to hold the Natal Dinner.
	31	. NEW YEARS' EVE - In large cities there are celebrations in clubs with Carnival music. Along the seashore, there are celebrations by worshippers of *umbanda* to the goddess of the sea - *Iemanjá*. The beaches fill with people bringing gifts to the Queen of the Sea and asking her blessing. At night, candles illuminate the sands where cult-worshippers, dressed in white, perform their rituals.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON BRAZIL

United States

Brazilian Embassy and Trade Bureau
3006 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 797-0100

Brazilian Government Trade Bureau
551 Fifth Avenue, Room 210
New York, NY 10017
(212) 682-1055

Brazilian Consulate
World Trade Center
2050 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 174
P. O. Box 58 362
Dallas, TX 75258
(214) 651-1855

Brazilian Consulate
1333 West Loop South
Suite 1100
Houston, TX 77027
(713) 961-3063

Brazil

Ministério das Relacoes Exteriores
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Brasília - D.F. Brasil, 70170

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SUGGESTED AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

Slides

Two sets of slides on Brazil are available from the Texas Education Agency, Social Studies Section. The first set of 78 slides is entitled "It's Time for Brazil" and is accompanied by a script. The slides are arranged to introduce the student to the land as well as to the history of Brazil. The slides also provide a look at Brazil's mixed culture and show characteristic aspects of the five regions of the country. The second set, 234 slides, provides a broader picture of Brazilian cities and regional features.

Films

Films on Brazilian themes are provided in the Brazilian Consulates (see page 68).

Filmstrips

"Brazil," six color filmstrips and phonodiscs or cassettes. Encyclopaedia Britannica Education Corporation, 1973. (Social Studies Service, P. O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90230.) Subjects covered include geography of Brazil and social and economic problems: inflation, city slums, and urban life. Teacher's guides include summaries, objectives, scripts, and suggested discussion topics.

"Brazil: The Awakening Giant of South America," two color filmstrips, 11 and 8 minutes. Multi-Media Productions, Inc., P. O. Box 5097, Stanford, CA 94305. Flimstrips give some important and basic insights into this rapidly growing southern neighbor.

"Brazil: The Emerging Giant." For Grade 5 through high school. Six filmstrips approaching Latin American Studies. Educational Activities, Inc., P. O. Box 392, Freeport, NY 11520.

Magazines

Some Brazilian magazines are provided for teachers or educators free of cost:

- Brazil, a monthly publication on trade and industry, is available from

  Brazil Trade and Industry
  Fundação Visconde de Cabo Frio
  Ministério das Relacões Exteriores - 9° andar
  70170 - Brasília - Brazil

Sua Boa Estrela, published by Mercedes-Benz do Brasil S.A.

Propaganda - C.P. 20419
Sao Paulo - SP - Brazil

74

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

TITLE VI, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; THE MODIFIED COURT ORDER, CIVIL ACTION 5281, FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, TYLER DIVISION

Reviews of local education agencies pertaining to compliance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with specific requirements of the Modified Court Order, Civil Action No. 5281, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division are conducted periodically by staff representatives of the Texas Education Agency. These reviews cover at least the following policies and practices:

(1) acceptance policies on student transfers from other school districts;

(2) operation of school bus routes or runs on a non-segregated basis;

(3) nondiscrimination in extracurricular activities and the use of school facilities;

(4) nondiscriminatory practices in the hiring, assigning, promoting, paying, demoting, reassigning, or dismissing of faculty and staff members who work with children;

(5) enrollment and assignment of students without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin;

(6) nondiscriminatory practices relating to the use of a student's first language; and

(7) evidence of published procedures for hearing complaints and grievances.

In addition to conducting reviews, the Texas Education Agency staff representatives check complaints of discrimination made by a citizen or citizens residing in a school district where it is alleged discriminatory practices have occurred or are occurring.

Where a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is found, the findings are reported to the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

If there is a direct violation of the Court Order in Civil Action No. 5281 that cannot be cleared through negotiation, the sanctions required by the Court Order are applied.

TITLE VII, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; EXECUTIVE ORDERS 11246 AND 11375; TITLE IX, 1973 EDUCATION AMENDMENTS; REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AS AMENDED; 1974 WAGE-HOUR LAW AMENDMENTS; AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS READJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1972 AS AMENDED

It is the policy of the Texas Education Agency to comply fully with the nondiscrimination provisions of all federal and state laws and regulations by assuring that no person shall be excluded from consideration for recruitment, selection, appointment, training, promotion, retention, or any other personnel action, or be denied any benefits or participation in any programs or activities which it operates on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicap, age, or veteran status (except where age, sex, or handicap constitute a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to proper and efficient administration). The Texas Education Agency makes positive efforts to employ and advance in employment all protected groups.